

## Backbench unease on interest rates

# Tory seats bear brunt of rising unemployment

By Philip Bassett and Richard Ford

THE government will come under strong pressure from nervous Conservative backbenchers to cut interest rates immediately, when the Commons debates the economy on Wednesday.

A Times survey today shows that unemployment has risen five times as fast in Tory constituencies as in Labour, a fact that is fuelling the alarm among Tory MPs about the political consequences of the government's high interest-rate policy.

New figures this week will show a further sharp rise in the numbers out of work. Last month unemployment rose by more than 80,000, and ministers are bracing themselves for what could be an even larger rise when the latest figures are announced on Thursday. The unemployment total may rise by more than 100,000 this week, taking the number out of work and claiming benefit to well over 1.9 million.

Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, called for an immediate cut of at least 2 per cent in interest rates. "There was no inherent reason... for raising

them to 15 per cent a year ago. There was no economic logic in cutting them to 14 per cent on the day we joined the ERM. There is no reason to maintain them at 14 per cent now." He said that by continuing with its policies, the government might intensify the recession and bring a Labour victory at the general election.

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, said there was now a greater risk in not reducing interest rates than in cutting them. "Industry in 1981 was inefficient and over-manned. It is not now," he said. A vicious circle had developed as worried industrialists failed to invest, banks began to panic, and then withdrew support.

John Major yesterday attacked those who "criticise and carp" over the state of the economy and added that the recession had started from a high level of growth and investment.

"The objective of policy has to be to get rid of the core of the problem, and the core of the problem is not interest rates, that is the means of getting us out of the problem, the core of the problem was the level of inflation." It was essential for Britain to have a low-inflation economy if it was to compete successfully with the French and Germans in the 1990s, Mr Major said on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Week*.

Neil Kinnock criticised the Conservatives' economic record, accusing the government of bringing about a second recession in two years through a mixture of "chronic complacency and congenial incompetence". At a Labour local government conference in Nottingham, he said: "The policies of the self-proclaimed party of the family have put decent housing beyond the reach of many on lower incomes and affordable housing beyond the pockets of many on average incomes. Those are the results of the Tory years. The years of the oil bonanza, the high tax revenues, the asset sales. The

years that the locusts have eaten," he said.

The Times analysis of jobsless trends reveals a large-scale political differential in the impact of unemployment. Using employment department figures held on government computers, *The Times* measured the rise in unemployment in each of the 650 parliamentary constituencies from December 1989 to December 1990.

Unemployment in the 373 Conservative-held parliamentary constituencies rose by an average of 32.4 per cent over the period, while unemployment in the 279 Labour-held areas rose on average by only 6.4 per cent. Total unemployment in Conservative constituencies rose from 665,690 to 832,869, an increase of 167,179, while that in Labour seats increased from 803,829 to 847,517, a rise of 43,688.

Although there are marginally more unemployed people in Labour constituencies, the rate of increase in Conservative seats is higher. The average increase in the numbers unemployed in each Conservative constituency was 446, compared to only 192 in Labour seats. Unemployment in Liberal Democrat constituencies rose by an average of 8 per cent, while those in seats held by other parties fell by 0.3 per cent. Regionally, the differential is even more marked, with the largest rise recorded by Tory seats in the Southeast, where unemployment rose by as much as 47.5 per cent.

Labour leaders seized on the Times analysis as a clear indication that criticism of the government's economic strategy by its own supporters is likely to increase, although ministers insisted that unemployment would not be an issue at the general election. Labour's private polling is increasingly showing unemployment as an important issue, Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, said: "There is a real sense of betrayal on the part of Tory voters who were promised an economic miracle."

## Poll cheers Landsbergis



Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, claimed yesterday that the republic's referendum confirmed the support of the great majority of ethnic Lithuanians for independence.

In spite of earlier fears of apathy in some country areas, only a small minority of people failed to turn out to vote.

## Palace defiant

Buckingham Palace defended the Royal Family's record during the Gulf war after *The Sunday Times* accused some members of a "mixture of upper-class decadence and insensitivity which disgraces the public".

## Forcing the pace

Homeowners are still discriminated against, writes Bernard Levin, but he warns people against high-pressure tactics to force the pace of change.

## Marriage for sale

How do you sell marriage? What happened when seven agencies were asked to produce an advertisement for wedded bliss.

## Bank's statement

The Bank of England, in a survey of housing finance worldwide, suggests Britain's liberal mortgage lending policies contribute to inflationary credit and balance of payments problems.

## Reds win 2-1

Goals by Lee Sharpe and Brian McClair saw Manchester United beat Leeds 2-1 in the first-leg of the Rumbelow League Cup semi-final at Old Trafford.

## INDEX

Arts...	15, 16
Births, marriages, deaths...	13
Business...	19-23
Classified...	13, 24-28
Court & social...	13, 18
Crosswords...	24, 25
Education...	27
Law Report...	27
Leading articles...	11
Letters...	12
Obituaries...	12
Sport...	27-32
TV & radio...	17
Weather...	18

## Cheltenham votes 2-1 for Taylor

By Peter Victor

PROSPECTIVE parliamentary candidate John Taylor was yesterday endorsed by Conservative party members in the Cheltenham constituency he will contest in the next general election. Members who opposed his candidacy said they would now unite behind him.

At a specially convened meeting in the town hall Conservatives voted more than two to one in favour of Mr Taylor, a black barrister, aged 38.

On a motion calling for a re-run of the meeting last December at which Mr Taylor was selected, the vote yesterday was 406 against and 164 in favour, with seven spoilt ballot papers. The meeting lasted for just under two hours and was said to be quiet and dignified.

In a statement delivered by

Monica Drinkwater, the association chairman, the ballot result was described as an endorsement of Mr Taylor's original selection.

Mr Taylor said that he was pleased with the result and could now get on with the business of getting to know the people of the constituency in the run-up to the next election.

Mrs Drinkwater said she hoped that the vote had settled the issue of Mr Taylor's candidacy for the seat, which has been held for 18 years by Sir Charles Irving, a local man.

When the prime minister John Major was told the news last night, he said: "I am very pleased indeed. This is the right decision, over-riding."

Continued on page 18, col 4

## Freeze set for another week

By Ray Clancy

SNOW continued to fall over many parts of the country last night as weathermen gave warning that temperatures were set to remain near freezing for another week.

Schools roads remained closed and drivers were again told to make only essential journeys. Commuters faced delays in getting to work today with British Rail advising them to find an alternative route or avoid the rush hour.

"We are asking people to travel at other times. We are unable to provide a full peak-time service," a spokesman said. This was due to many trains being out of action because of faults, including burnt-out motors and damaged doors, caused by the weather. A spokesman in the London operations room said, however, that services would be better than those of last Friday, when there were hours of delay and numerous cancellations.

One man died in an avalanche, others were injured in car crashes at the weekend and the police and mountain rescue teams appealed to climbers and walkers to stay away for their own safety.

The avalanche death was near Kinder Scout, in Derbyshire, yesterday. The injured man suffered two broken legs and was trapped beneath the snow, and was rescued and taken to the Northern General hospital in Sheffield.

Several other climbers were also rescued. Two men, one with a broken ankle, were helped from the Black Ladders range in Snowdonia after spending the night on the mountain. They had built a bivouac inside a cave rather than try to find their way to safety in the dark.

Weathermen said that the outlook for the next week was more snow, severe frosts and cold winds. "The very cold weather will continue for some time with severe frosts in many places. Winds from Scandinavia are keeping temperatures low."

Continued on page 18, col 4

## Soviet peace move as land war delay is urged

From Christopher Walker in Riyadh and Mary Delevsky in Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, was last night preparing to leave for Baghdad in a new diplomatic initiative to persuade Saddam Hussein to leave.

The move comes just days before Wednesday's UN Security Council meeting, its first since the outbreak of war.

President George Bush, meanwhile, is today expected to come under pressure to delay the launch of any full-scale ground offensive against Iraq for between two and four weeks when he meets his two top military officials who received nine hours of detailed war briefings in the Saudi capital over the weekend.

According to well-placed Western sources, the pressure for the delay came from commanders on the ground. It resulted both from continued emphasis on ways to minimise allied casualties and logistical problems in the seaborne delivery of American military equipment due to bad weather and the refusal of some crews to make the journey to Saudi Arabia.

In a related development, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, emphasised that after recent meetings with Syrian, Saudi and Egyptian officials, there was no pressure from the Arab allies to rush into a ground war in spite of some criticism of Iraqi civilian casualties resulting from the air campaign. Mr Hurd said yesterday: "I have not

- Analysis: time runs out for Saddam.....2
- Frontline: bombing raids on Baghdad.....3
- Letters: inbred desire for war.....11
- Leading article: timing for victory.....11
- Vietnam victim's view of the Gulf.....14

felt, in the various consultations I have had in the past week or so, any pressure from any part of the alliance to launch a ground war before it is ready."

American officials stressed yesterday that President Bush would discuss the date of a ground offensive with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and other key allied leaders, including John Major, before a final decision was taken.

Tom King, the defence secretary, will hold discussions in Washington tomorrow with Pentagon officials, including Dick Cheney, his American opposite number.

The views expressed to Mr Cheney by top US commanders were understood to reflect differences inside the American military establishment about the best date for launching a ground offensive. Some air force officers are pushing for a much longer air-only war to prevent the casualty toll rising.

Mr Cheney said that his meetings had left him "struck by the enormous size of the Iraqi military establishment - the size of the army, the enormous number of tanks, the hardened aircraft shelters, and the redundant communications systems."

Although a strong element of disinclination has to be discounted in all briefings about future allied military plans, the pressure from US commanders for a delay in a ground attack, which many British officers had expected to come this week, has been growing in recent days.

Mr Cheney also attempted to clip the wings of those strategists who have been

## Mandela fugitive 'at trial'

From Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

ONE of the four people who skipped bail in the Winnie Mandela trial turned up at the courthouse to watch with the crowd as the ANC leader's wife appeared on kidnapping and assault charges, it was reported yesterday.

Katiza Cheekulu, who made no attempt to conceal his presence even though a warrant had been issued for his arrest, told a newspaper: "I wanted to see what was going on."

The acute embarrassment for the police came as Nelson Mandela prepared to spend the first anniversary of his release from prison today attending the resumption of his wife's trial.

The ANC has meanwhile demanded the racial breakdown of 11,000 people who were arrested in a sweep by 30,000 members of the police and defence forces at the weekend.

Nobody knows what to do with women my age. But I am doing something about it. I've carved out the place for myself where I admit I'm fifty-six, love it, and am willing to play it." she says. "Hell, my juices didn't even get going until I was forty."

At forty-three, with 1977's *The Thursday Child*, MacLaine began carving the market on those few but pivotal parts of a mother engaged in a complicated relationship with her daughter. For her Oscar-winning role in *Terms of Endearment*, she let untended roots whiten her hair to play an overbearing matriarch anxious about her child's terminal cancer. After packing on twenty pounds for *Madame Sansonette*, she again locked vanity away in the dressing room to become *Siret Megalos*, a matronly Ousey, the irascibly loyal nurse you hope will be around - and on your side - in your twilight years at the bedside. Still, few were prepared for Postcards from the Edge - in which she portrayed a hard-drinking showbiz mom trying to keep her drug-rehabbed daughter from sending her future up her nose - and *The Mirror*, the one that separated the actresses from the girls.

In a moment that had audiences squirming because of its comic candor, MacLaine, in an unforgettable close-up, sits in a hospital bed, scrub-faced and nearly bald, as her daughter helps her remake her public persona piece by piece: eyebrows, cheeks, lips, eyes.

Extraordinary for its starkness, it probably earned her an Academy Award callback. "Like all great actors, Shirley has no vanity," says *Postcards* director Mike Nichols. "Shirley refused going as far as she could with that scene."

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## Choose cheese to save birds from the cold

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent



GRATED cheese is just the thing for wrens as well as for spaghetti, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday, in a call for people to help wild birds deprived of food by the blanket of snow covering the country.

Although thousands of birds are likely to die, and whole populations of some rarer species could be threatened if the severe cold continues, many could be saved by people putting out scraps, the society said. However, it pointed out that different birds have varying dietary needs.

Wrens, among Britain's smallest and commonest birds, are insect-eaters and cannot get their fine bills around a piece of bacon rind, never mind a peanut. Some cheddar or parmesan, grated and scattered on the ground, is a life-saver

for them, Chris Harbard, the society's spokesman, said.

"Wrens are astonishingly vulnerable in severe cold," he said. "Their tiny body weight means that they lose heat very quickly and they find it very difficult to replace. In really cold weather the population, which in winter is up to 20 million birds, can crash by more than half."

Any fatty scraps provide energy for birds, he said, and birds also need clean water with which to preen themselves. "Birds need to keep their feathers clean to retain heat," he said. "But they must have pure water, so people shouldn't be tempted into putting out water with antifreeze or salt in it."

Richard Porter, the society's head of species management, said the entire populations of some of Britain's rarer breeding species may be threatened if the

cold spell is prolonged. In particular, he said, bitterns, bearded tits, Dartford warblers and barn owls may be at risk.

Only about 20 breeding pairs of bitterns - long-necked marshland birds - remain in East Anglia and Lancashire. "If the cold spell is a long one we might see these numbers reduced by half, and the population is declining anyway," Mr Porter said.

Bearded tits, another marshland species, and Dartford warblers, the only British warbler that does not migrate south in the winter, both of which are represented by about 600 pairs, have been drastically reduced in numbers by previous severe winters, and might once again be at grave risk. Barn owls, whose declining British population is now down to about 5,000 pairs, might be very hard hit by the snow cover hampering their search for food, Mr Porter said.

Mr Cheney also attempted to clip the wings of those strategists who have been



# Ten days that Saddam may use to shake the western world

TIME is running out for President Saddam Hussein to launch a preemptive ground offensive against the allies in Saudi Arabia. Assuming that he would want to take the initiative to force the allies' hand, this week could be a crucial one for the Iraqi leader, while his opponents pursue the air campaign without showing any great hurry to begin the land war.

It is in Saddam's interest to start a full-scale ground battle before the allied bombers make too many inroads into the fighting capability of his troops. Apart from the minor incursion into Khafji — and it was minor only in terms of troops and armour deployed — Saddam has been content to leave his forces in their bunkers to endure the bombing. It was clearly never his intention to engage in either air or naval

combat with the allies. So these last three weeks have been part of what might be called his "absorption strategy".

Baghdad Radio has referred to Saddam's intention to mount a strike against the allies, forcing them into the land war before they are ready. Is this what we can now expect in the next seven to 10 days? If so, in what form could it take, and will it really be a welcome move for the allies, on the basis that once out in the open, the Iraqis can be slaughtered from the air?

Even though the odds must be in favour of the allies if the Iraqi forces do mount a large scale offensive, Saddam's cunning should not be underestimated. If he were able to entice large sections of the allied ground forces from their positions into artillery range, he could begin to

**The Iraqi leader is not concerned about casualties, but time is running out for him to entice the allies into the range of his artillery, Michael Evans writes**

inflict the sort of casualty toll which he believes will split the coalition and divide opinion in America.

Although the allies enjoy air superiority, Iraq's formidable array of artillery and anti-aircraft batteries in Kuwait might be capable of delivering a decisive blow, were the allied forces to fall into his trap. In Kuwait, the Iraqis have followed the typical Soviet military strategy, developed from the siege of Stalingrad to the invasion of Afghanistan, in which well-entrenched positions in the front line are supported

with massive centrally-directed artillery fire.

Traditionally, artillery fire is the greatest cause of casualties in war and in this conflict Iraq has a 3-to-2 advantage in artillery over the allies. There are tens of thousands of soldiers armed with Soviet and South African-made artillery pieces ready for a concentrated barrage, possibly with chemical shells.

It was the strength of the Iraqi artillery arsenal that persuaded allied commanders to leave Khafji almost undefended. The town is within range of some of

the more forward positioned Iraqi artillery batteries. If Saddam mounted a much larger scale offensive, he would rely on his artillery to cause heavy casualties and sweeping anti-aircraft artillery fire to try to keep allied bombers at bay.

Aware that this is a possible option for Saddam, allied bomber crews will have to spend this week targeting the artillery positions as well as the protected shelters housing Iraqi infantry. According to the Americans, the air raids have so far succeeded in destroying 650 artillery pieces. But the Iraqis have over 3,000 in Kuwait and southern Iraq. And who knows whether some of the claimed 650 may have been decoys?

None of the coalition damage assessment experts seems able to agree on the achievements of the

bombing campaign. The French are the most bullish, claiming that 30-40 per cent of the Republican Guards have been destroyed. The British only talk of one guard division having its combat capability reduced by 50 per cent. The British and American military do not even agree on how many Iraqi troops and tanks there are in the theatre of operations.

There are also contradictions among those involved in the air campaign. Some of the pilots have returned claiming it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new targets to hit, implying that the allies may have reached the point at which there are diminishing returns for the round-the-clock raids. This feeling was underlined when it became evident that the Iraqis had started hiding aircraft and

anti-aircraft artillery systems in small towns and villages, regarded as "no strike areas" by allied commanders. Yet one senior US commander last week insisted there was still "a target rich environment".

The danger for the coalition would be if everyone assumed that Saddam would not be so foolish as to mount an offensive when he knows from the Khafji experience that allied bombers would pounce on any Iraqi tank or troop movement. But Saddam is not concerned about casualties on his side. Iraq, like the Soviet Union in the Second World War, has a history of defending its positions at great human cost. It lost 50,000 men in a single battle in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war as compared to the 58,000 US lives lost in the whole of the Vietnam war.

## DIPLOMACY

### Saddam turns on Arab world as Gorbachev envoy sets out

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND RICHARD BEESTON IN AMMAN

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's special envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, was yesterday preparing to set out for Baghdad with another Soviet appeal to President Saddam Hussein. Mr Primakov's mission, announced in a formal statement from the Soviet leadership on Saturday, yet few in Moscow nurtured any real hope that a further mission would persuade the Iraqi leader to back down.

The move came as Baghdad signalled its impatience with the Arab world for not rallying to support Iraq in its war against the Allies and called on Arab states to break off diplomatic relations with the countries involved in the current bombardment of Iraq.

At a press conference in Amman, the Iraqi deputy prime minister Sadoon Hammadi also appeared to reject attempts at Iranian mediation to halt the fighting and instead suggested that all Arab states reject the UN resolutions calling for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Given the advance pessimism, the question is why Moscow should be trying again now, after several failures, to play mediator. The first Security Council meeting since the outbreak of war gives Moscow a pretext for trying to exploit its continuing contacts with Iraq, especially now that Baghdad has rejected other initiatives.

The second may be the knowledge that long-standing Soviet misgivings about the degree of force being applied by the US-led alliance are now being echoed in several other countries. When the UN Security Council meets, therefore, Moscow could hope not to be a lone voice calling for restraint.

The third, and possibly the main, reason for the dispatch of Mr Primakov is mounting domestic pressure on President Gorbachev and on Soviet diplomacy to withdraw support from the anti-Iraq alliance. The longer the war continues, the stronger becomes the pressure from those

pressed in different ways. At the beginning, it was couched in articles and statements which said that a political solution would have been possible if the United States and others had shown more patience, if sanctions had been given longer to work and if further channels had been explored.

President Gorbachev, in his first formal statement after the outbreak of war went out of his way to blame Saddam Hussein, to demonstrate that all alternatives had been exhausted and to express Moscow's willingness to keep communications open.

When it became clear that the war would last considerably longer than a week, its Soviet opponents turned to speculation about the numbers of civilian casualties and the scale of damage to non-military sectors of Iraq's economy. Headlines started to include words like "barbarism" and "innocent victims".

On January 22, in his second formal pronouncement on the Gulf, President Gorbachev emphasised that Moscow stood by the UN Security Council resolutions but added two qualifications. He said there was a "threat that the war is getting out of hand", and went on: "We must not allow military operations to develop into a situation that would result in the killing of servicemen and more particularly of innocent civilians."

In his third statement on Saturday, Mr Gorbachev said: "The logic of the military operations and the character of the military actions threaten to go beyond the mandate defined by those resolutions."



Council of war: Richard Cheney, centre, the US Secretary of State, discussing in Riyadh at the weekend the progress of the allied offensive with General Colin Powell, left, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the American forces in Operation Desert Storm

## PEACE PROCESS

### Hurd emphasises Palestinian issue

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RIYADH

DOUGLAS Hurd, Britain's foreign secretary, yesterday took to the podium here occupied nightly by uniformed American and British military briefers and declared that, although politicians were still in the back seat, it was time "to begin to cast minds to the future, to winning the peace".

His arrival in Saudi Arabia after talks in Egypt with President Mubarak and the presence of a team of British industrialists talking reconstruction with exiled Kuwaiti leaders in the Saudi resort of Taif has put Britain in the vanguard of those looking beyond the bullets to the post-war shape of the Gulf.

While others such as James Baker, the US Secretary of State, have chosen to voice their

thoughts abroad, Mr Hurd is the first Allied foreign minister to set foot in the war-zone since fighting started. Already he has been highly praised by the Saudi media for insisting that any post-war security arrangements must be home-grown.

Mr Hurd, something of a *bête noir* to the Israeli right, also emphasised the importance of the Palestinian issue. Flanked as he was by Britain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the head of the Foreign Office news department, there is a chance that Mr Hurd's emphasis will be seen at home as bearing the imprimatur of Foreign Office Arabists, but he insisted that he held out no hope for individual peace agreements between Israel and her Arab neighbours as advocated by Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Such a bilateral settlement between Israel and Syria, or Israel and Jordan would be impossible without "a comprehensive settlement which includes the Palestinian question". The foreign secretary said: "All my discussions [with Syria's prime minister in London and then in Cairo and Riyadh] confirmed that you have to settle the question of the Palestinians as well as any outstanding matters between Israel and individual Arab states."

Although Mr Hurd is one of those statesmen who rejected linkage between any diplomatic solution of the Kuwaiti problem and that of the Palestinians, his remarks underlined the post-war emphasis that will be put on the Arab/Israeli conflict.

"We have to turn to the search of a settlement of the Palestinian question and the Arab/Israeli dispute, and I do not pretend that will be quick or easy," Mr Hurd said.

## UNITED NATIONS

### Britain and US to head off criticism

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and America are likely to be able to head off public criticism of the war in the Gulf, including an embarrassing caution from the Soviet Union, in the security council this week.

The first formal meeting on the Gulf war since the allied offensive began has been scheduled for Wednesday, after weeks of lobbying by North African countries — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

Their allies on the 15-nation council, Cuba and Yemen, want to turn the session into a forum for public attacks on the allied campaign to liberate Kuwait, with non-council members queuing to criticise the offensive, many of them to alleviate domestic political pressure.

At the weekend, the Soviet Union, previously a staunch supporter of the allies, added its voice to those expressing misgivings, with President Gorbachev saying

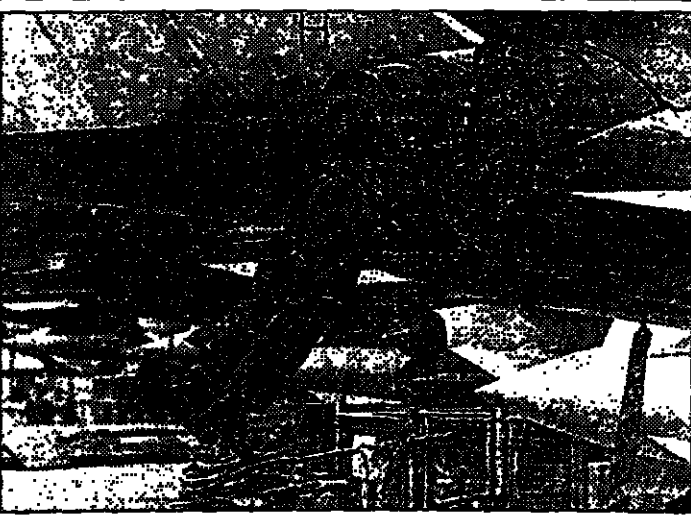
that the campaign threatened to exceed the mandate given by the security council.

Security council diplomats say, however, that Britain and the US have enough support in the council to force it to sit behind closed doors, denying their critics television coverage. The compromise was suggested by Austria.

Thatcher plan: Margaret Thatcher may be invited to head UN efforts to restore peace and stability in the Gulf once the war is over, some of her friends at Westminster believe, writes Nicholas Wood.

Many politicians at home are likely to be dismissive of the idea that she would prove an internationally-acceptable chairman of a future UN committee seeking to bring stability to the Gulf.

However, her friends believe this assessment overlooks the fact that she has long been more popular abroad than in Britain.



Inside information: a RAF ground technician inspecting one of the giant exhausts of a Tornado bomber at a Gulf airbase

### Low-level training likely to be resumed

Bonn — John Major, the prime minister, can expect to hear from Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, that RAF pilots bound for the Gulf will be allowed to resume low-level training over Germany, when he visits Bonn today (Ian Murray writes).

In fact, according to Volker Rühle, general secretary of the Christian Democratic Union and a close advisor to Herr Kohl, RAF pilots on Gulf standby have been given special permission already to train down to 250 ft in seven areas of Germany. Herr Rühle, in an interview with *Welt am Sonntag*, complained that Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, had allowed myths about the German position on the war to grow. One such "myth", he said, was that British pilots were dying in the Gulf because the Germans would not permit low-level training.

### Arafat warning

Tunis — Yasser Arafat has given a warning that President Saddam Hussein may use unconventional weapons if "pushed to the point of no return" by the Americans (Peggy Gibbins writes). Interviewed on Channel 4, he also said that Islamic fundamentalism would increase because America had not considered it in starting "this aggression".

### Suicide protest

Vienna — An Austrian woman, aged 65, shot herself in front of the American embassy on Sunday apparently in protest against the Gulf war. She died later in hospital. Police said objects found on her led them to believe the suicide might have been a Gulf war protest. (AP)

### Arens visits US

Jerusalem — Moshe Arens, Israel's defence minister, yesterday left for talks in Washington with Richard Cheney, the US Secretary of Defence, amid Israeli press reports that Israel may co-ordinate contingency plans with America for a role in helping to eliminate the continuing threat of Iraqi missile attacks.

### Missile near-miss

The Gulf — An unidentified missile exploded within yards of the American frigate Nicholas in the northern Gulf last week, causing slight shrapnel damage but no injuries, the US Navy said. Fragments of shrapnel are being examined to determine if it was Iraqi or an one belonging to friendly forces. (Reuters)



Primakov: few give him much chance of success

in Moscow who believe it should never have been started, still less with Soviet acquiescence.

In Amman, where he arrived on Saturday to bring a message from Saddam for King Hussein, Mr Hammadi said: "The least the Arab countries can do on a political level is to boycott diplomatically all countries of aggression and to reject United Nations Security Council resolutions that are being used to destroy Iraq."

In the first public statement made by a senior Iraqi leader since President Saddam's television interview nearly two weeks ago, it became apparent that Baghdad is feeling increasingly isolated. The expected back lash in the Arab world and Muslim countries against the West, which was widely predicted to begin once hostilities commenced, has noticeably failed to materialise more than three weeks after war broke out.

Over the weeks of the war, Soviet opposition has been ex-

AT A Mardi Gras party in north west Washington on Saturday night the most popular costume was a Bedouin robe and stars-and-stripes head-dress: "I'm Lawrence of America, who are you?" asked one of its wearers, neatly encapsulating the mixture of idealism and insecurity which characterises the politicians and their aides who in this fourth week of the war are dancing their way towards Lent.

Washingtonians are proud of the way their government appears to be masterminding the military and political future of the Middle East — the region where America has suffered so many setbacks seems, at least for now, to be more closely under their command than it has been for years.

The idealist is back in fashion. Yet Lawrence of America is not as confident as the image he would like to project. In a city where being informed conveys more status than being rich, large numbers of normally important people are feeling their status increasingly compromised by ignorance. Senators find that their supposedly secret "security briefings" are no better than those given to the millions watching CNN.

White House aides, who since the days of Abraham Lincoln have dined out on the titbits of gossip they can swap for good food and company, have little to titillate their hosts. The hum of rumour around the White House has a low note, bringing little solid fare for exchange.

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

## Lawrence of America is back in fashion

The Pentagon is the place where all the information ought to be found. But, even the most assiduous and best-connected defence experts are finding it hard to pull anything very certain from the mass of statistics and other officially generated confusion.

The insecurity of the normally secure has led to several outbreaks of wartime paranoia fever. One example came from Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, a normally level-headed Republican, who suddenly last week accused the CNN correspondent in Baghdad, Peter Arnett, of being an enemy "sympathiser", a charge which he supported with reference to the alleged Viet Cong connections of Mr Arnett's former wife.

This latest version of the classic wartime "enemy within" scare came ill from Senator Simpson who, as *The Washington Post* jubilantly exclaimed in its leading article on Saturday, had been one of the most fervent pre-war apologists for President Saddam Hussein, once assuring that the dictator during a meeting with other senators that Iraq's problems lay "with the US media and not the US government".

CNN is now further charged with allowing the Iraqi government to use its satellite phone lines in exchange for favourable treatment for Mr Arnett and his crew. The network's owner, Ted Turner, has responded by saying that the links were used by the Iraqis for arranging journalist visas and helping with the search

for a missing CBS news team. This could have the makings of another major row this week unless the ground war comes to put Washington out of its misery of waiting.

The official version which all the Lawrences of America are asked to swallow is that the key decisions about the next phase are military. Every politician, political aide and would-be politician knows that is not true. The military authorities will advise (probably for delay, since that is the reflex action of a ground commander facing any D-day). The political authorities will decide (probably for an imminent attack, since they read the piling telegrams of protest and peace-offers from the Soviet Union, Iran, and others).



AIR RAIDS

# Civilian casualties take on key role in propaganda war

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN AMMAN

WHEN the missile struck his home last week, Farouq Hassan al-Noman had never heard of "collateral damage", the Pentagon's term for civilian war casualties.

Although afraid at the beginning of hostilities that civilian areas of Baghdad might be attacked, he decided last week to leave the relative safety of his northern home town of Sulaymaniyah and return with his wife and four children to his house in the capital's Adhamiya district in the belief that allied bombing raids were accurately targeting only strategic sites.

Last Wednesday, at half past eight in the evening, just two hours after the family had arrived home, a bombing mission aimed at a nearby bridge went badly wrong and missiles struck five homes.

Only Mr al-Noman's wife and one daughter survived the raid. Their home was partly destroyed by the force of an explosion, then gutted by fire. The story is not an isolated

one in Iraq, where hundreds of civilians have been killed and thousands more injured, particularly in the south near the second largest city of Basra, where allied air-raids have been the most sustained.

Journalists who visited the country last week were taken to a dozen sites where civilian areas have been bombed, although an accurate picture of the extent of the damage is difficult to obtain because of poor communications and often contradictory and exaggerated accounts of the effect of attacks. Given the size of the allied bombardment and the relatively few examples of damage to civilian areas, however, it would appear that most air-raids are successful in hitting only their intended targets. A further difficulty is that newsmen are barred from visiting or reporting on damaged strategic targets.

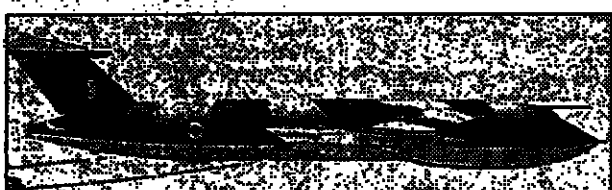
In contrast to the posture of defiance and confidence that marked the Iraqi regime's initial pronouncements on the progress of the war, the authorities are now concentrating mainly on the attacks on civilian areas, in an attempt to influence public opinion abroad and to rally their own people behind the war effort.

This tactic was clearly demonstrated in Amman yesterday, when Saddam Hammadi, Iraq's deputy prime minister, invited an international delegation to visit his country to inspect the damage. "Innocent people, women and children, are dying from the plane and missile attacks by the states claiming to be defenders of human rights," he said.

In most cases of civilian injuries and damage, the reason why allied air-raids have gone wrong is obvious. At the town of Al-Dour north of Baghdad, bombed houses were only a couple of miles from a heavily defended chemical weapons facility which had also been hit. Similar evidence of the destruction of residential and commercial areas because of their proximity to strategic targets was evident in the town of Diwaniyah, south of Baghdad, where the target, the main telecommunications centre, was next to the souk.

Although most of the civilian population has not been directly affected by the bombing, the allied forces run the risk of losing their reputation of being discriminating in their attacks if they continue to deny that civilian areas have been destroyed. "Most people still respect the Western forces for not targeting civilians," one Baghdad resident said, "but that mood could change if the civilian casualty toll continues to rise."

ROYAL AIR FORCE



The Victor bomber, nearing the end of active service

## Aged Victor stars in its last show

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

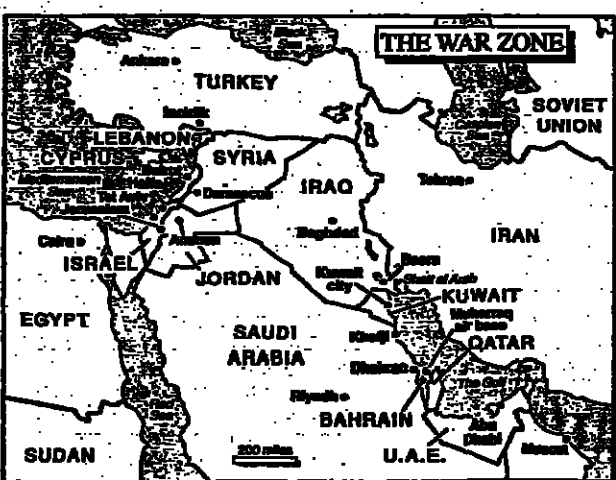
FOR the Victor tanker aircraft and air crews of 55 Squadron, Desert Storm is their swansong. It is an ironic one, because for a quarter of its history, the squadron was based in Iraq. Now stationed at RAF Marham, Norfolk, the unit celebrates its 75th anniversary in May, knowing it will be the last major celebration before it folds with the de-commissioning of the Victor.

The squadron's task is to refuel the fast jet bombers before they cross into enemy territory. Circling above the Gulf, stacked ten high, the flying petrol stations then wait in radio silence for the Tornados and Jaguars to return, refuel again and fly back to base.

Over half the squadron's crews saw service in the Falklands conflict, unlike those of the Tornados and Jaguars who were not used in that war. The aged, but still graceful looking Victor, with her smooth lines in contrast to the new generation of angular bombers which succeeded to her role, is to be scrapped in the next couple of years.

It will end an association with the squadron which has flown no other type of aircraft since the Victor entered service in September 1960, with the expectation of becoming a nuclear bomber. The squadron, formed in 1916 flying DH-4s, first gained battle honours at Ypres the following year when it shared its demise.

The Squadron Association has one surviving member from the first world war, and though he lives in Canada, he has promised to be at the 75th anniversary celebrations. Others, who served when it was based in Iraq from 1921 to



DEFECTORS

## Soldiers weary of fighting

FROM LACHLAN CARMICHAEL ON THE KUWAIT BORDER

A DOZEN tired and hungry Iraqi private soldiers, complaining that President Saddam Hussein had made them fight too many wars, yesterday surrendered to Arab troops, an Arab officer said. The soldiers, some still carrying their weapons, walked three miles by night from an Iraqi outpost in Kuwait, passed through a Saudi border fence and gave themselves up at dawn, the officer said.

He reported that the Iraqi soldiers, all aged between 20 and 30, said that they were tired of fighting wars for Saddam. About half of them had fought in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. But other factors had also contributed to their decision to defect.

The endless allied bombing frightened them and prevented them from sleeping at night. Their daily diet consisted of bread and rice, with no meat, fruit or vegetables. Poor sanitation - they had not had a shower in a month - had left them with body lice. In addition they apparently said that they opposed Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, and they thought their chances of dying in the war so high that they considered the dash across the border to be worth the risk.

At another point on the border the Saudis appear to be completing a prisoner-of-war camp.

More than a hundred green tents have been set up inside a stadium ringed with barbed wire but journalists were refused access to it. (AP)

GROUND FORCES

## Soldiers show compassion for sole deserter

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN SAUDI ARABIA

THERE was unusual agitation in the usual long queue for chocolate, washing powder and watery non-alcoholic beer outside the camp shop when a bunch of soldiers with the red and blue shoulder flash of the artillery started muttering about somebody they called Williams, and the damage he was doing to the good name of their regiment.

Back at our tent, leafing through some old British newspapers, the name of Corporal Vic Williams jumped off the page: he is the gunner from 27th Field Regiment who went absent on the day it was due to leave Germany for Gulf duty and who has subsequently spoken from the platform of an anti-war gathering in London. By all accounts, Corporal Williams is the only soldier officially posted missing from Britain's contingent here.

In the present circumstances, with the prospect of a ground assault on the Iraqi defensive lines in Kuwait growing nearer, one might have expected his former comrades to be savagely critical of his conduct and contemptuous of a man who shirks combat duty on the grounds of being unwilling to be part of what he has called "naked aggression".

But the young soldiers with whom we share our days are full of surprises. They are capable of a sensitivity and compassion that would open the eyes of civilians who assume a man joins up because he cannot find anything better to do.

In the case of Corporal Williams, the chorus in our queue agreed that he had behaved like an idiot, exposing the 27th Field to unkind taunts from other units. He would undoubtedly end up doing time in an army jail, a fact forgotten by the organisers of the protest groups who had snapped up his services so eagerly.

On the other hand, there was general agreement that he had been a keen soldier, good at his job (originally a radar operator) and popular enough with the rest of the guys. Not a word was said about cowardice, nor did anyone talk about roughing him up if he should return to the regiment. "Duff" was the final verdict, before the artillery men staggered off bearing crates of soft drinks and cartons of cigarettes.

Talking to other soldiers about this, and what, if any, code of honour is applied in what we have to call the other ranks, produced some unexpected and enlightening responses. Going AWOL for important personal reasons - family problems, pregnant girlfriend, even the need to get away from the military for a day or two, is definitely not considered a serious offence: better to talk things over first with an officer, perhaps, but the returning culprit is usually assured of a warm enough welcome.

Even in circumstances like those involving Corporal Williams, retribution would probably be rare: "I don't think things would ever be quite the same again within his section, but soldiers are more forgiving than you would give them credit for" observed one infantry major.

The apparent lack of hatred for the Iraqi troops is another aspect of the British army at war that surprises outsiders. With the few inevitable exceptions, there is virtually no bragging about bloodlust, none of the desire to kill the enemy, and keep on killing, that was sometimes apparent among American soldiers in Vietnam. As one army chaplain observed thoughtfully the other day, "the average Tom (other rank) does not have to be worked up into a frenzy to do the job he has been trained for."

Morale booster: The joint commander of the Desert Rats yesterday called for comradeship and a corporate shield to carry his men through battle. In an uplifting address to 60 of his top officers, Brigadier Christopher Hammerbeck said professionalism had brought the 4th Armoured Brigade to the brink of war. Now it was their duty to equip the soldiers for conflict (Richard Kay writes).

He told them he had total confidence in their abilities to face the days ahead. But he made clear too that the day of engagement could still be some way off.

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## In the queue for martyrdom

FROM ADAM KELLER IN AMMAN

IF Abdali does what he says, in the near future he will park a car in a crowded street of one of the nations opposing Iraq and detonate more than 100kg of high explosive, blowing himself and some locals to smithereens.

"What I am going to have in God is better than all this bloody life," said the 26-year-old member of the Jerusalem faction of Islamic Jihad. "But because I am going to die for my land, don't think my life has been miserable. All of life is towards either heaven and hell, and I have chosen heaven."

It is disconcerting to meet a would-be suicide car bomber. Throughout the hour-long meeting in Amman, Abdali, speaking in Arabic through a translator, was masked by a black and white checked scarf. He is one of the figures whom Western governments fear the most - the self-confessed human bomb desperate enough to die in order to kill. But, although he is one

of the more extreme voices of Palestinian dispossession, his vows of martyrdom must be treated with scepticism. President Saddam Hussein's terrorist counter-attack against Western interests has still not occurred. Leaders of the Islamic Jihad said they sanctioned the interview with Abdali because they wanted the West to be aware that the Iraqi war will not be confined to the middle east.

Abdali is an angry young man and the causes of his frustration will have to be addressed if there is to be lasting post-war peace. He said he was born in Jerusalem, but at the age of three, was part of the Palestinian exodus resulting from the 1967 war with Israel. After completing high school at 17, he joined the Islamic Jihad, which took him to Lebanon to fight with a militia.

Abdali said he had been among a group of about 30, who since the invasion of Kuwait had been trained in southern Lebanon in handling automatic weapons and assembling explosives. They were now waiting orders to carry out missions in

Western Europe, Turkey, Egypt and Syria, to which they had been assigned. His group had no targets in the United States, he said.

When given the go-ahead, Abdali said, he would go to the target nation - which he would not specify - and with an assistant, would build a car bomb. It would hold more than 100 kilograms of high explosive and other materials to expand the blast. "If it is impossible to park my car (and leave the bomb to explode), I will stay with it and take myself," said Abdali.

Abdali said he had not told his family of his pending suicide, but believes they will not mourn, but will celebrate his death. His mission is important, because, although he feels Saddam has enough soldiers, "my sort of operation will affect the interests of the West more strongly". And he is certain that martyrdom assures him a shortcut to paradise, where there is everything that is considered enjoyment in this life. Anyone who dies for his land will get 70 of the nicest girls, for example.

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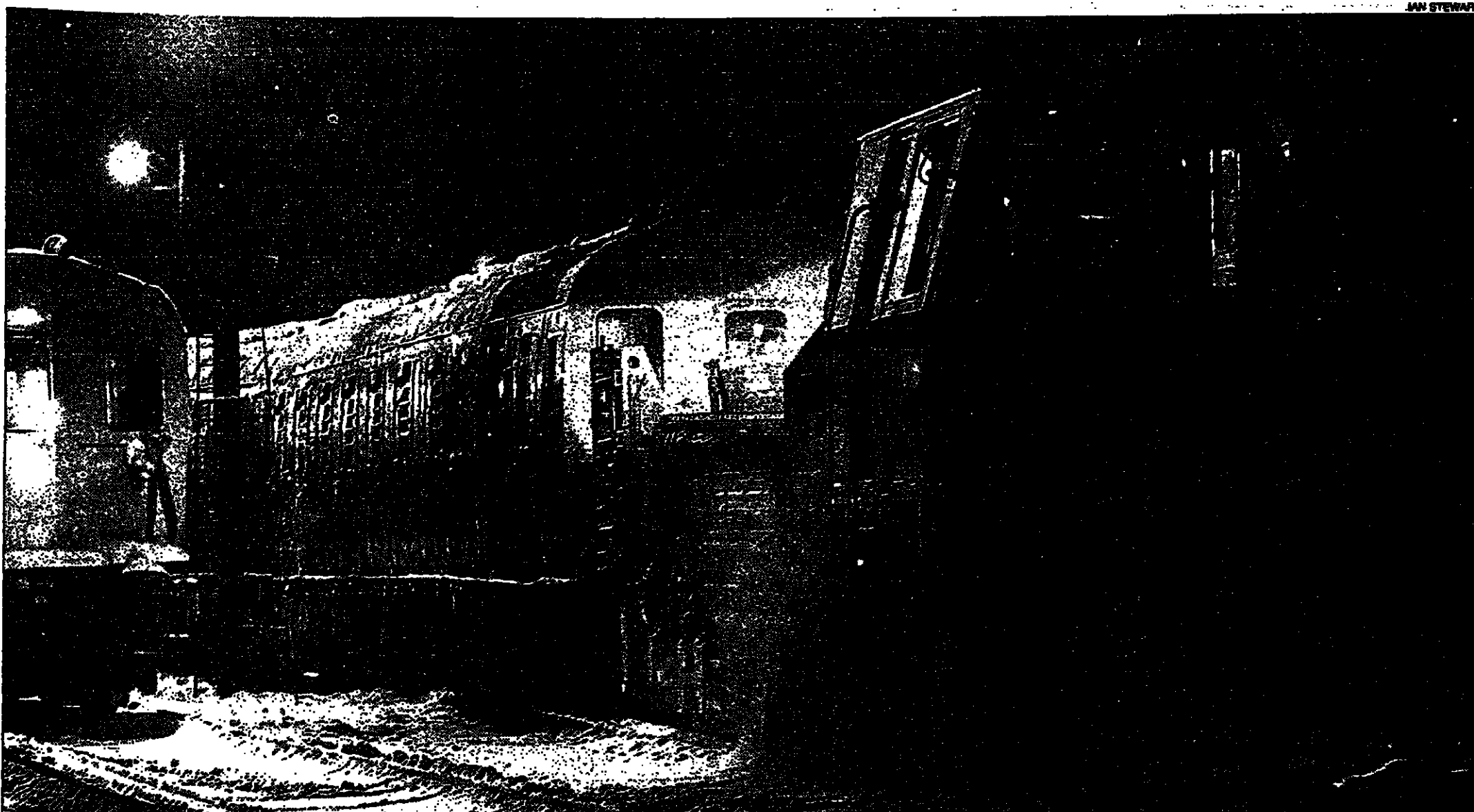
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Cold comfort: British Rail's snow-blower (right) moving in at the Selhurst depot, south London, at the weekend. The operators found there was barely enough snow to allow it to work

## Police call for more care after injuries mar winter sports

By RAY CLANCY

POLICE and ambulancemen last night appealed to people to take care when they were out enjoying the wintry weather after two boys who were walking on ice fell into freezing waters and scores of others injured themselves tobogganing and skiing.

A boy aged 15 plunged through thin ice in Belmont lake, Hereford, but managed to pull himself to an island where the fire brigade rescued him, cold and wet but unharmed. Another boy, aged 14, fell through ice when he tried to rescue his dog, Joe Farrugia, of Bethnal Green, east London, was taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia after falling into Shadwell pond. A passer-by managed to slide over the ice in a canoe and rescue him.

Elsewhere, hospitals reported numbers of minor casualties caused by over-enthusiastic tobogganing. Surrey ambulance service set up a mobile unit after more than 30 people were injured at Newlands hill, near Guildford, and the Royal Surrey county hospital put its emergency plan

into operation to deal with the large number of minor injuries. A hospital spokesman said that all but emergency surgery was cancelled so that staff could deal with broken arms and legs, strained backs, bruises and sprains. "We have been inundated with casualties from accidents on the slopes. People have been behaving very irresponsibly."

Lee Gosling, aged 14, was rescued by police and firemen who used his sledge as a stretcher after he crashed into a tree and broke his leg at Newlands hill. Ambulancemen asked people not to use plastic sheeting as a sledge after Carol Bateman, aged 21, of Putney, southwest London, fractured her ribs and arm when she careened into a tree on the same hillside.

One person was flown by helicopter to hospital in Worthing, West Sussex, suffering from spinal injuries after a sledding accident at Highdown hill, Ferring. Nine people were injured in accidents on the South Downs, West Sussex ambulance service said.

The London ambulance service was called out to a few people bruised in falls but not many had broken bones. Hundreds of families flocked to Richmond Park, Hampstead Heath and Alexandra Palace as every available hill became a winter sports centre. One man slid down Primrose hill in north London carrying his Yorkshire terrier in a wok.

In East Anglia, the police were angered by young skiers who hitched a lift on four-wheel drive vehicles, risking their own lives and those of passers-by.

A woman skier was taken to hospital after hitting a bump on a hill at Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire. Another woman suffered spinal injuries and a boy aged eight injured his head while tobogganing at Boars hill near Oxford.

## Climbers are asked to stay away

Police and mountain rescue teams in the Lake District last night asked climbers and walkers to stay away from the region. Cumbria police said they were risking not only their own lives but those of rescuers after a teacher was knocked unconscious and another man died at the weekend.

Sтивен Wrench, aged 32, of Didsbury, Manchester, was comfortable in Carlisle hospital suffering from severe head injuries after falling 200ft from Raven Crag in the Borrowdale valley. He was found after six hours by Keswick mountain rescue team. Damien Storrie, aged 28, of Bury, Greater Manchester, died after falling 150ft while walking on Pike How, Great Langdale.

## Crewman missing

A crewman was missing last night after being lost overboard from a trawler 65 miles off the coast of Cornwall. The man, who has not been named, was lost from the Arbaghegan as it sailed through heavy snow and choppy seas. A Royal Navy helicopter from Culdrose found no trace of him.

## Panic buying

Delivery lorries were today expected to reach supermarkets and shops left with low supplies at the weekend. In Kent, some shopkeepers said there had been panic buying bread and milk, leaving shelves virtually empty because deliveries had not got through.

## Snow silliness

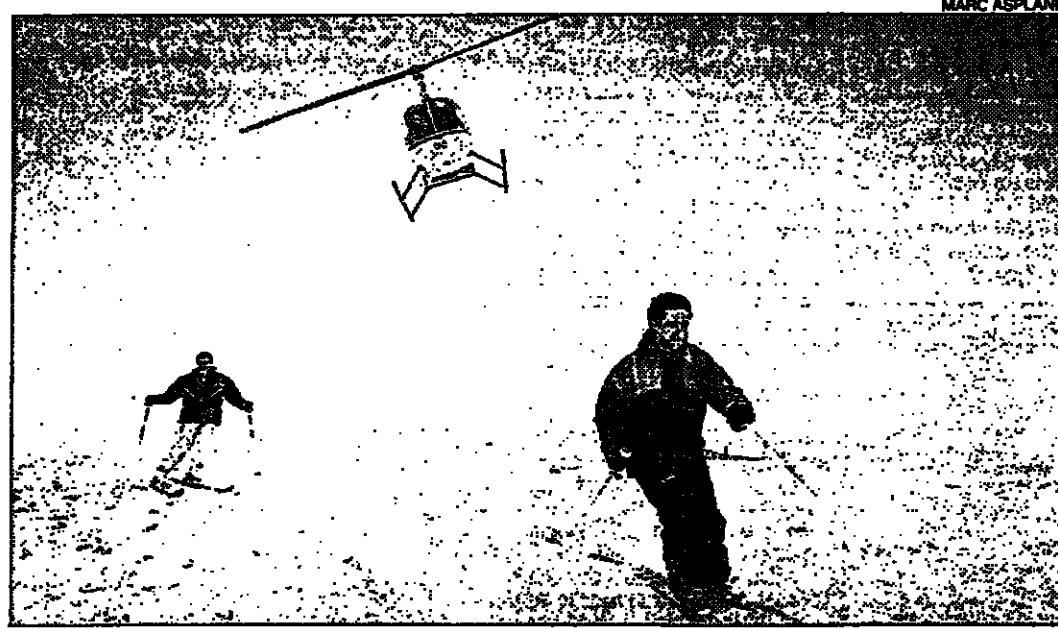
Police in Gloucestershire yesterday appealed to people to stop telephoning their emergency snow control room after it was inundated with silly questions. The callers included a man who wanted to know if there was snow in the Alps and another asking if the A4 in Berkshire would be open on Wednesday.



Response team: police armed to hit back yesterday after a playful bombardment from snowballers in Hyde Park, London



Dual purpose: two visitors to Greenwich Park, London, exercising the family dog as they enjoy a toboggan ride



Lift-off: skiers used a helicopter in place of a ski lift on the slope of White Horse Hill, Oxfordshire

## Worst-hit areas still have hosepipe ban

By WILLIAM CASH

PARTS of the country worst hit by snowstorms still have water restrictions in force that could mean heavy fines for people caught hosing off grit and salt encrusted on their cars.

Anglian Water and Southern Water say the heavy snow and recent rain have not replenished ground water levels, and that hosepipe bans are likely to continue for the foreseeable future after the third driest year this century. Most seriously affected is mid-Kent, where last summer's drought order has just been renewed for another year. Anyone using a hosepipe, sprinkler, ornamental fountain, or caught filling a swimming pool, cleaning the outside of a building or operating an automatic car wash is liable to be fined up to £2,000.

Mid-Kent Water admitted that the ban was "bizarre" when hoses were frozen solid and it was hardly the weather in which to water the garden, but added that, with the region needing twice the average rainfall to avoid a drought

this summer, the order was necessary. "It is likely to be a considerable time before the order can be lifted. The public do not understand the situation, which is that we are having to cope with the effect of three years of dry winters," it said.

The heavy snow was good news in that it would be absorbed as it thawed while torrential rain ran off into rivers without replenishing underground wells. However 10in of snow was needed to achieve the effect of 1½in of rain.

Anglian Water said one tenth of its 3.5 million customers - mainly in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire - were still subject to a hosepipe ban, and faced a £400 fine. The region needs 10in of rain before April to replenish underground supplies. That would mean more than 5ft of snow, which was unlikely, Anglian said.

About a million Southern Water customers in a coastal strip from Brighton to Littlehampton, as well as in Eastbourne and Hastings, are still not allowed to use hosepipes.

## Lack of snow undoes BR's secret weapon

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail has deployed its secret weapon against the Arctic blizzards. A powerful snow-clearing machine, bristling with the latest in German snow-blowing technology, left sheds at Stewart's Lane, Battersea, in London, at the weekend to clear lines south of Purley.

Unfortunately, the British weather proved too much for the machine, which was bought in 1988 after the blizzards of the previous year. After a few abortive missions it spent most of the weekend near sheds at Tonbridge, Kent, and in south London doing a spot of tidying before heading back to its base late yesterday.

The snag, it seems, was that the snowfalls of recent days have been serious enough to disrupt services but not enough for the snow-blower to have an effect. The specially built locomotive, made by Beilhack of Rosenheim and fitted with large front-mounted fans, can clear 5,000 tonnes of snow an hour in depths up to 10ft. It can sweep through the kind of

high and heavy drifts familiar in central and northern Europe with extraordinary effect. Faced, however, with less than eight inches of snow it will not work, a British Rail spokesman said.

The blower, which cost between £500,000 and £750,000, almost made its debut clearing tracks near Sevenoaks, Kent. "We had a few problems in the area and the blower was on standby, but in the end a normal snowplough did the job," the spokesman said.

What concerns some experts is not so much the performance of the snow-blower, but the performance of the heated point systems at some of the London mainline stations. Roger Ford, of Modern Railways, said that the devices, believed to be powered by propane, had apparently become stuck. They had been introduced some years ago with a great deal of fuss.

"What I would like to know is, could these points systems not cope or were they working at all," Mr Ford said.

## Government cynical over homeless, says Shelter

By JILL SHERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE housing charity, Shelter, has accused the government of "cynically ignoring" the plight of homeless people sleeping rough outside the capital.

Official estimates are that 1,046 people sleep out at central London sites. Shelter, however, claims that twice as many are sleeping rough in outer London and as many as 5,000 in the rest of the country. Simon Keyes, Shelter's assistant director, said: "The government has not given a penny outside London and has simply passed the buck to local authorities."

The government, recently announced an additional 730 hostel beds in London in an attempt to rescue the homeless from sub-zero night-time temperatures. Existing hostels in London report that more homeless are seeking shelter during the cold weather. The Salvation Army has re-opened a hostel in Blackfriars as a temporary measure.

Help the Aged said last night that elderly people should put on extra layers of clothing, eat regular meals and take lots of hot drinks. Margaret McLellan, of Age Concern, added that one of the biggest dangers was hypothermia, followed by pneumonia and bronchitis.

People are more likely to die of cold in Britain than other countries in western Europe, according to a report published yesterday.

The report, from the charity Winter Action on Cold Homes, compares mortality rates in ten countries, including Scandinavia, over a nine-year period. It claims that every country has some increased deaths during the winter, but Britain experiences the largest "increases." "If we could reduce our extra deaths to the average achieved in other countries, we would lose 3,500 fewer people in this month alone," said Melanie Henwood, the report's author.

## Law Society moves to cut number of dishonest solicitors

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MEASURES intended to cut the number of dishonest solicitors who steal clients' money have been approved by the Law Society council.

The move coincides with the society's publication of a survey which shows that such solicitors are likely to have a history of work, financial and personal problems. The measures include a pilot-monitoring scheme, under which a team of Law Society officials will visit all sole practitioners who are more than two weeks late in delivering their accountants' report. There will also be wider powers for the society to require solicitors to submit their accountants' report every six months, and the society will extend its counselling and advice scheme.

Concern at the increasing number and size of claims on the solicitors' compensation fund is growing. In 1989 the fund received 813 claims for a total of £14.6 million, compared with 577 totalling £6.7 million the year before. Although the total has dropped, claims for both last year and this are expected to exceed £5 million.

A survey by the society's research and policy planning unit discloses that 65 per cent of defaulting solicitors were experiencing problems at the time that they unlawfully withdrew clients' money. Three-quarters of those had severe financial difficulties, either because of business (51 per cent) or personal matters (25 per cent). Almost 30 per cent suffered acute stress and depression and 31 per cent faced an overwhelming amount of work at the time of their default.

The survey was based on the 47 defaulting solicitors in 1987 who gave rise to £4 million being paid out of the solicitors' compensation fund, with claims for another £2 million pending.

## Plea for prison

People living near a prison earmarked for closure are to meet Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to urge him to keep it open. Young offenders from the open prison at Lowdham Grange, Nottinghamshire, do odd jobs such as trimming hedges and repairing the local hall. Andy Stewart, Tory MP for Sherwood, and Lowdham Grange villagers meet Mr Baker on Wednesday.

## Indecency charge

A man aged 35 was remanded in custody yesterday accused of indecently assaulting an eight-year-old girl in a children's ward at an Ulster hospital. Kenneth James Stevenson, unemployed, from Omagh, appeared at a special court in the town charged with committing gross indecency at Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh, during the early hours of last Friday.

## Trumpet history

A recording of the trumpeter who sounded the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854 is to be broadcast by the BBC tomorrow for what is believed to be the first time. Martin Lantford was one of several men called to sound the charge in the battle of Balaclava. The recording was made by Thomas Edison after the battle and will be broadcast on Radio 5's *A Century Remembered*.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Today:** Comic Relief fund-raising launched in central London. National Heritage (Scotland) Bill second reading in Commons.

**Tuesday:** National Farmers' Union annual meeting begins, Kensington, London. Peace for Ireland 1991 campaign launched in Dublin, Belfast and London. Duchess of York visits families of men and women serving in Gulf, Portland, Dorset.

**Wednesday:** Environment department introduces anti-litter scheme, London.

**Thursday:** Unemployment, industrial production and average earnings figures published. National Trust annual report published.

**Friday:** Cynil Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, faces deselection meeting. Retail price index published. Twentieth anniversary of currency decimalization.

**Saturday:** Commonwealth foreign ministers discuss South Africa, central London. Husky rally begins, Kielder Forest, Northumberland.

**Sunday:** Peace groups demonstrate and march, RAF Fairford.

## Battle of minds

Tournament of the Mind will this week be played in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and *The Times Educational Supplement*. The contest begins in both papers this Friday and will continue for six weeks.



# Palace defends royal family after peacetime lifestyles attack

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit navy families at Plymouth today, 24 hours after members of the royal family were accused of carrying on regardless with their peacetime lifestyles in spite of the approaching land war in the Gulf.

Buckingham Palace last night defended the record of the royal family during the conflict. Tomorrow the Duchess of York will visit families of servicemen at the Royal Naval air station, Portland, Dorset. The attack came in a *Sunday Times* leading article that accused some members of the family of a "mixture of upper-class decadence and ineffectuality".

In response, the palace said: "There has been a steady programme of commitment by the royal family, towards not only the troops but their families and supporting staff, over the last few months and that will continue. It is very much business as usual." The palace said the Queen had been kept fully informed by the prime minister

throughout the war and had interrupted her holiday at Sandringham when hostilities began.

The *Sunday Times* urged the Queen "to summon the royals in Windsor for a chapel service". In the editorial, headlined "Royal family at war", the paper said Britain's armed forces were on the brink of the biggest land battle since the second world war. Yet on the home front, the paper says, too many of the young royals and their entourages carried on regardless with their peacetime lifestyle.

The paper says: "The Queen should put a stop to it. It is unfortunate that no member of the royal family is on active service in this war." The *Sunday Times* says it is important that the country's first family is seen to be making the same sacrifices as ordinary families.

"The Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales have taken up arms, but only to go hunting birds. Not even war, it seems, can stop the last shoot of the season at Sandringham." The paper singles out Viscount Linley, the Queen's nephew, for particular criticism.

"He graced the front page of Thursday's *Sun* in fancy dress, wearing red lipstick and holding on to various males in drag."

The paper also criticises Viscount Althorp, the Queen's godson and brother of the Princess of Wales. "This could be regarded as a royal contribution of sort to the war effort since his revelations, especially when they failed to kill the kiss-and-tell tale of the 'other woman', did give the nation some light relief from page after page of war coverage."

Buckingham Palace pointed out last night that Viscount Linley, although a member of the royal family, was a private individual who did not receive civil list payments and was not required to carry out public duties. Viscount Althorp was not a member of the royal family and did not receive civil list payments.

The palace listed commitments made by the royal family. Apart from visits planned for today and tomorrow, the Duke of Kent, who receives no civil list payment, has visited service units

in Germany. Prince Edward is to visit RAF Uxbridge and RAF Odiham later this month.

The Princess Royal, who last month visited the naval dockyard at Rosyth, today visits three regiments of which she is colonel in chief. Earlier this month she visited RAF Colishall, Norfolk, and last month the Royal Naval air station, Yeovilton. A visit last week by Princess Margaret to RAF Cominsby, Lincolnshire, was postponed because of bad weather, and she is to visit families of Scottish regiments involved in the conflict.

The contributions made by the royal family to the war effort began in September with the Duke of York, who as Colonel in Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment, took time from his naval duties as Flight Commander of HMS Campbelltown to visit the regiment as it prepared to leave for the Gulf. The duke's ship is engaged on Nato duties. The duke fought as a helicopter pilot in the Falklands war.

In November the Queen went to Germany and met Tornado crews

preparing for departure to the Gulf. Last month she and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Portsmouth Royal Naval dockyard and last week she was at RAF Marham, Norfolk.

The Queen referred to the threat of conflict in her Christmas message and last Thursday referred to the war in a speech. Before Christmas the Prince of Wales spent two days with all three services in Saudi Arabia, and has visited armament factories in Newcastle.

The Princess of Wales has twice been to Germany to see the families of Gulf servicemen. She visited the Gulf Families Support Group in London and the Gulf Crisis Emergency Centre at the Foreign Office last year.

Students at Lincolnshire College of Agriculture and Horticulture at Caythorpe, near Grantham, have presented a petition calling for a ban on the Belvoir Hunt, a foxhunt that the Prince of Wales rides with and which meets on their campus.



Good shepherd: the prince gives his Jack Russell a lift yesterday

Leading article, page 11

## Student fees scholarship proposed by Tory group

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

UNDERGRADUATES would be awarded state scholarships to cover the costs of their tuition fees, under proposals to be put to the prime minister by the Conservative manifesto group on education.

This is part of far-reaching reforms aiming to create a more market-driven system in which "money follows the student" and the most popular universities and polytechnics attract more funds. For the first time, students would be liable for a tuition fee. They should, however, be no worse off because the charge would be covered by the scholarship. At present, partly notional fees are paid direct by the government.

The group, chaired by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has also decided to recommend big changes in student grants and the structure of higher education. The group wants the next Tory manifesto to include a commitment to scrap the parental contribution to the grant. It is not clear if or how that would be replaced. One option would be an expanded version of the top-up student loans scheme, another would be a bigger grant.

Ministers should re-examine proposals for recovering loans through national insurance contributions, the group suggests. Such a mechanism, advocated by acad-

emics at the London School of Economics, was rejected by ministers when they drew up their student loans scheme.

The group has also decided to urge the prime minister to put universities and polytechnics on an equal footing. The recommendations are likely to encounter stiff opposition from Tory backbenchers, who will be surprised that such radicalism has survived Margaret Thatcher's fall from power. Ministers will be able to argue, however, that in many ways they build on changes introduced in the past few years.

Under reforms implemented by Kenneth Baker, universities and polytechnics are becoming increasingly dependent on tuition fees for their income. This year, they receive £1,675 per student, more than twice the previous level, and next year there will be three bands, ranging from £1,775 to £4,770, depending on the course chosen. In 1988-9, fees accounted for 20 per cent of university income; by next year, they will account for 33 per cent. The changes would increase that figure dramatically and make higher education institutions almost totally dependent on their success in attracting students.

The parental contribution to the student grant has long been a source of contention. Couples with a joint income of £25,000 a year after tax and deductions for mortgage payments and life assurance have to meet the full grant costs of £2,200, or £2,800 in London. Couples earning £15,000 a year pay £577 and those on £20,000 pay £1,577. About a third of students do not receive the full contribution and in recent years they have become increasingly dependent on bank overdrafts, vacation jobs, and, until the recent ban, welfare benefits.

Education, pages 24-5



Prodigious players: Angela An (right), aged 15, who first achieved critical acclaim at the age of six, is to make her United Kingdom debut as a soloist at the Festival Hall, London, tonight. Miss An will play Mozart's Piano Concerto in A with the London Mozart Players in the presence of Princess Alexandra.

year-old pianist, and Gao Chang, a 21-year-old violinist, who will also play tonight in the concert sponsored by the Anglo-Hong Kong Trust (Simon Tai writes).

Miss An will play Mozart's Piano Concerto in A with the London Mozart Players in the presence of Princess Alexandra. Gao Chang, who took up the violin at the age of three, has played in major concert halls since he was seven and won the junior section of the Yehudi Menuhin international violin competition at 14. Both he and Miss Yang are studying at the Guildhall School of Music in London.

## £270m scheme to renovate rundown council estates

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will today unveil a £270 million programme to renovate the most run-down council estates in England and Wales.

The Estate Action Programme, launched in 1986, has been revamped by the government in an attempt to tackle the growing backlog of repairs to council homes, particularly system-built blocks constructed in the 1960s. The programme will enable councils to borrow up to £270 million in the coming financial year for approved renovation projects.

Critics have attacked the programme, claiming that only £160 million will be for new projects. The London Housing Unit, a research body funded by 13 mostly Labour councils, said yesterday that £10 million of the funding would be used to finish work already in progress. It also said that the environment department favoured high-profile projects that were often not among those given priority by councils.

While the government was announcing the new programme, it had also cut £138 million from the amount councils were allowed to borrow to cover the cost of ordinary housing repairs. As a result, London would face a shortfall of £100 million between the amount councils needed to spend on repairs and the amount the government would allow them to borrow.

Margaret Moran, chairman of

the unit, said: "The reality is that the government has cut more from councils' mainstream housing programmes than estate action will add."

A study of tenants in homes provided by housing associations, published yesterday by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows that changes in housing benefit rules have led to more tenants falling into arrears with their rent.

The report called for changes in the method used to calculate eligibility for benefit, which it said was causing poverty traps, discouraging people from earning more. By reducing the amount of benefit lost for each additional £1 earned from 65p to 50p, the government could ease the problem dramatically at a cost of £164 million a year to the tax-payer, it said.

The environment department rejected the unit's criticism of the programme. A spokeswoman said that councils themselves submitted schemes and were therefore able to ensure that the work they wanted was funded.

Tenants of four run-down housing estates in Waltham Forest, north-east London, are to be given the option to form a Housing Action Trust after a review of the government's failed policy initiated by the Prince of Wales (Charles Knevin writes).

The £175 million community architecture scheme has been rescued, together with another in Hull, after a private meeting called by the prince last November.

## Architects sound alarm on transport

TOWNS and cities without efficient public transport will be condemned to terminal decline with grave consequences for the nation's economy, the Royal Institute of British Architects says in a report today (Michael Dynes writes).

Breaking the Transport Deadlock calls for measures to reduce the demand for transport and urges a reappraisal of policies that have led to the proliferation of schools, hospitals, and shopping centres outside towns.

It rejects the idea of a national network of toll roads and proposes the widespread introduction of road pricing — a system of charging motorists for driving in busy urban areas at peak times — to relieve congestion in key towns and cities. The system could help significantly to increase investment in public transport.

Maxwell Hutchinson, president of the institute, said: "The comfort of private cars has improved out of all recognition over the last 30 years. It is no accident that people are unwilling to stand forlornly waiting for cramped and unpunctual transport from the age of the Ford Anglia. Decent public transport is central to the future economic, environmental, and social well-being of the country."

## Short wins speed chess extra time

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, Britain's top-ranked grandmaster, has qualified for the quarter-finals of the world championship at the expense of his compatriot Jon Speelman.

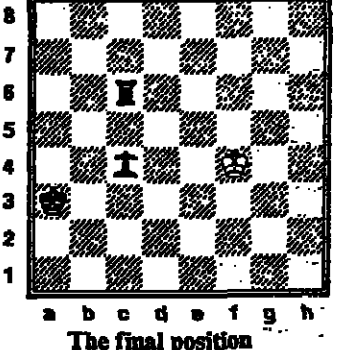
After their match in London reached deadlock at four points all, extra time of two games was played to break the tie, at speed chess rates. The first was drawn, but in the second Short was on the point of shepherding home his last pawn to become a queen when Speelman conceded the game.

Short thus wins overall by 5½-4½. The quarter-final is likely to be in Brussels in August, when Short will meet either Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion, Jan Timman (The Netherlands), Vassily Ivanchuk or Boris Gelfand. Both of the latter are Soviet grand masters.

Moves in the final game:

Speelman white	Short black
1 e4	g6
2 d4	g5
3 Nf3	Bg7
4 g3	0-0
5 Bg2	0-0
6 cxd5	Nxd5
7 d5	Nf6
8 Nc3	Nf6
9 e3	Re8
10 N3	e5
11 Re1	exd4
12 Nf1	Bf5
13 e4	Bx7
14 Nc2	e5
15 Qd3	Nd5
16 N4	Nc4
17 Qc3	Qx7
18 N3	Qx7
19 Nxd5	Qx7
20 N3	Nd5
21 e5	Nd5
22 Nxd5	Bx6
23 N2	Bx6
24 Qx3	Qx3
25 Nxd3	Bx2
26 Kx2	18
27 N4	Bx5
28 N5	Nd5
29 N4	Bx5
30 N4	Bx5

Resigns.



The final position

## College opt-out offers poll tax compromise

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS being considered in the government's community charge review would offer a compromise on the central funding of education by removing only further education colleges from local authority control.

The plan would wipe almost £2 billion off local government spending, leading to a rise in income tax or VAT.

Education ministers are considering requests from large numbers of college principals to opt out. A wholesale transfer would be modelled on the arrangements for polytechnics, which now have their own funding council.

Even the freedom to opt out would require legislation, which would not be allotted par-

liamentary time until after a general election. An education spokesman said that ministers wanted to assess the progress made since college governors received extra powers under the Education Reform Act before deciding on their changes.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, raised the possibility of central funding for further education when he met local authority leaders last week. Some authorities would accept a transfer if it removed the threat to their control of schools.

Municipal undertakers could soon be burying the dead while council workers resource drive-ways and tend gardens of private houses if plans by a Labour think-

tank are adopted (Douglas Broom writes).

Labour is committed to giving councils new freedoms to act and delegates to the party's local government conference in Nottingham yesterday were told how the scheme might work. A report endorsed by David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that if councils were freed of restrictions imposed by the government they could transform many run-down and deprived areas.

The Local Government Information Unit, of which Mr Blunkett is president, said councils could make a significant impact on homelessness if they were allowed to spend all the

money they received from the sale of council houses and other property.

In a report presented at a fringe meeting, the unit suggested that councils could run a low-cost funeral service for those unable to afford commercial undertakers. Councils should also be free to use their labour force to maintain gardens and provide driveway and flat roof repairs for owner-occupiers.

The party is also committed to establishing a quality commission to oversee the standards of council services. Mr Blunkett said that by providing new services, any of which would be self-financing, councils could help to restore local pride in their communities.

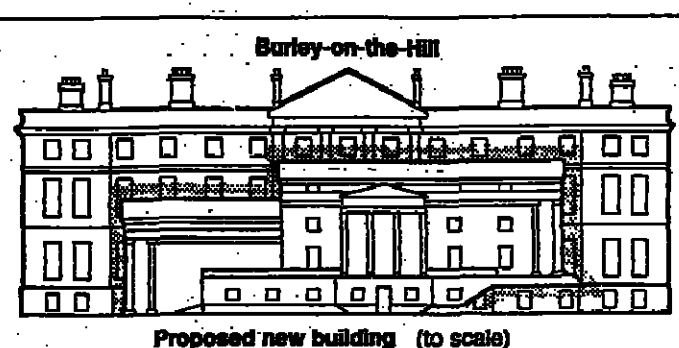
## Hotel plan seen as threat to stately home restoration

By JOHN YOUNG

PROPOSALS for a hotel and golf course which, objectors say, would destroy the setting of one of the grandest country houses in Britain will go before a meeting of Rutland district council today.

The house, Burley-on-the-Hill, was bought less than a year ago by a family trust formed by Aziz Nadir, head of the collapsed Polly Peck group, and is now for sale with 750 acres. The 250-room house, listed grade one, is a baroque/palladian masterpiece on the crest of a hill overlooking Rutland Water and is visible for miles. It was built in the early 18th century, and its great colonnaded forecourt is modelled on the piazza of St Peter's in Rome.

The house has been empty for some years and was sold with 800



Proposed new building (to scale)

acres last April, for a reported £7 million, to Venak (Jersey) Ltd, controlled by Mr Nadir, which has since sought planning consent for a hotel-venue near the house, a 36-hole golf course, and parking for 76 cars by the rectory just outside the estate gates. The

annexe would be a building of some style, based on an unexecuted design for a garden temple by Humphrey Repton. However, at 105ft long and 40ft high, it would be more than half the size of the frontage of the great house.

The graphic above, by the con-

servation group, Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE), indicates the relative size of the buildings. Although the annexe would not obscure the house, it would, SAVE says, be close enough to the west end of the south terrace to destroy the balance of the present layout.

SAVE describes the application as highly speculative and claims that planning consent would make the asking price for the property so high as to deter any potential buyer with a "sympathetic" scheme for restoring the house and grounds. "The salvation of such houses must be for them to be placed on the market at a price which reflects their condition and the amount of money that needs to be spent on them," SAVE says. Government encouragement for development of leisure facilities on the outskirts of towns and

cities threatens green-belt policy, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says today.

Neil Sinden, the council's planning officer, says that a draft guidance document issued by the environment department in October, which suggested that leisure developments might be a way of improving "degraded" land, permeates a myth about the amount of derelict green-belt land. It is estimated that only about 5 per cent of the London green belt is derelict and semi-derelict land.

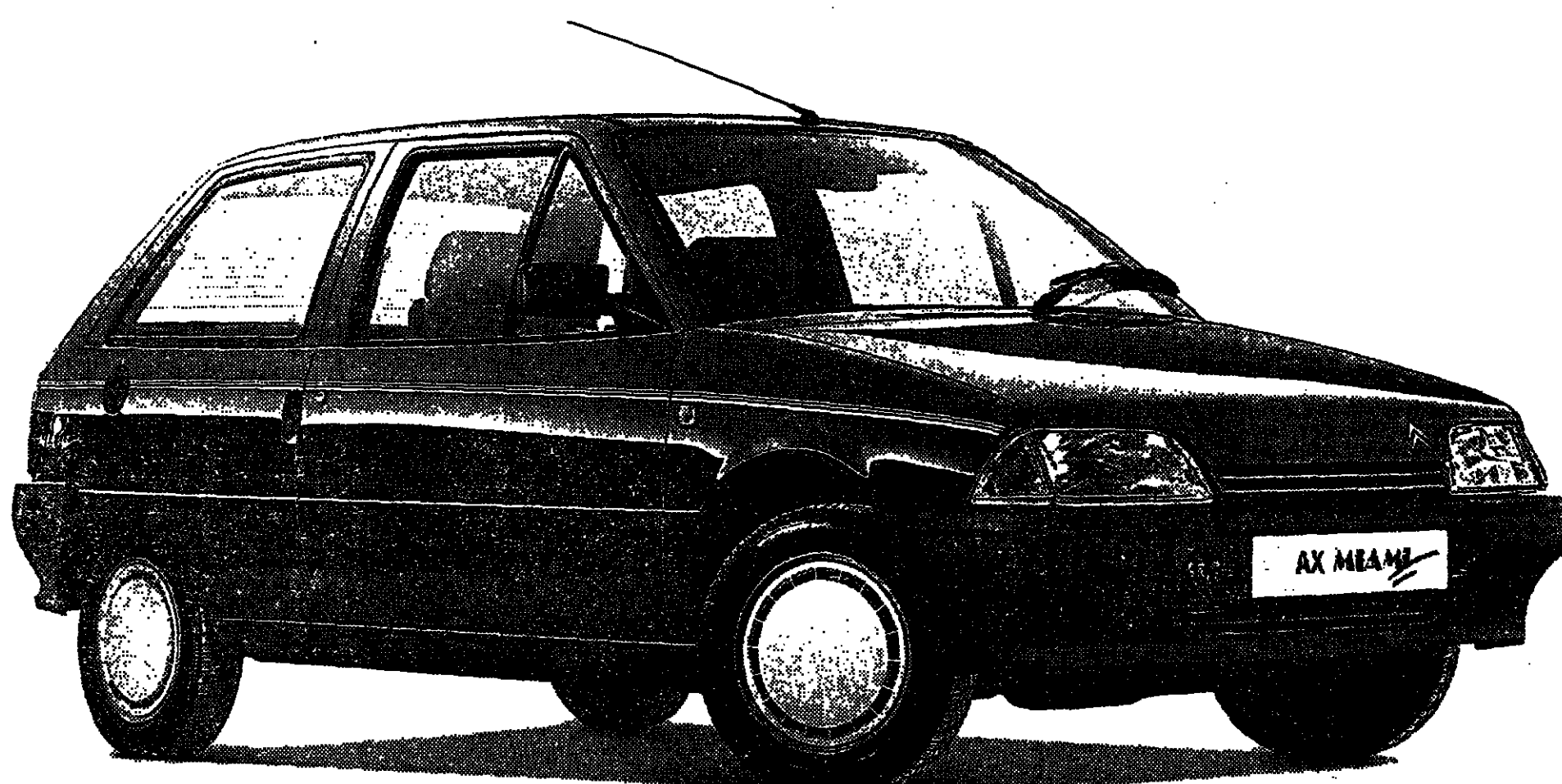
"Bending the rules will allow new forms of urban sprawl after decades of firm green-belt protection," Mr Sinden says. The guidance document says that facilities offering both indoor and outdoor sports may be appropriate, provided outdoor elements predominate.

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# Lithuanians give clear backing for independence

From ANATOL LIEVEN in VILNIUS

WITH Lithuania yesterday pondering the result of its referendum, which showed overwhelming support for independence from Moscow, there was no clear sign of the military manoeuvres that were to have begun in the republic at the weekend. Although reports reaching Vilnius last night told of small-scale military movements in different Baltic areas, Lithuanians in general showed no signs of feeling intimidated. The referendum confirmed

the support of the great majority of ethnic Lithuanians for independence. Despite earlier fears of apathy in some country areas, only a very small minority of people failed to turn out to vote.

President Gorbachev has declared that the Baltic republics have no legal validity and that the national referendum on the maintenance of the Soviet Union must go ahead on March 17 in an orderly and free fashion. All three Baltic governments have declared that their local authorities and election commissions will not co-operate in organising the Soviet referendum. There are fears that Mr Gorbachev's decision to use Soviet troops and officials.

The results of the referendum among the 20 per cent minority groups in Lithuania, mainly Russians and Poles, were a severe disappointment to the republic's leaders and have dangerous implications for ethnic peace. Although 84.43 per cent of eligible voters went to the polls, the overwhelming majority of them were ethnic Lithuanians. Less than a third of the non-Lithuanian population seems to have voted. Of those who did, a considerable proportion were among the 9.6 per cent of those who went to the polls who voted against independence or spoiled their papers.

The figures are also likely to be viewed with alarm by Latvian leaders, who decided this weekend to follow the Lithuanians and Estonians in holding their own plebiscite, for which a date has yet to be set. Large-scale Russian immigration has reduced ethnic Latvians to only a bare majority in the republic.

Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, claimed yesterday that "a majority of non-Lithuanians said yes to our independence", but this assertion was not borne out by the official figures.

Altogether 90.47 per cent of those who voted answered yes to the question: "Do you favour Lithuania becoming an independent democratic republic?" But many Poles and Russians who otherwise favour independence in principle answered no because they did not approve of the form of the question, which gave them no chance to register opposition to the nature of the process.

The position of Croatia, however, is not as simple. A large Serbian minority has already decided against accepting Zagreb's authority, refusing to recognise the Croatian government or its flag.

Serbs throughout Croatia, in particular to the south around Kulin and to the east in Slavonia, are being whipped up by propaganda from Communist Serbia. Mr Milosevic has excluded any chance of peaceful negotiation to resolve the dilemma of the Serbs in Croatia by demanding that "all Serbs live in one state".

The Croatian leadership has said that "any territorial readjustment is out of the question". In Zagreb, the mood remained uncertain yesterday, with air raid sirens sounding in rehearsal for any attempt at a crackdown.

Serbia continues to accuse the Croats of planning genocide. Hatreds from the second world war have resurfaced, with the Serbian Orthodox Church accusing the Vatican of financing Croatia's drive for independence.

As federal authority declines, Yugoslavia increasingly becomes little more than a geographical expression.

## Slovenia may be on its own in a year

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB

MILAN Kucan, the president of Slovenia, said at the weekend that his Yugoslav republic would be "fully independent" by next year. After walking out of federal presidency talks last Friday on the future of the country, which broke up without agreement, he declared that the move to self-determination would trigger a chain reaction whereby Yugoslavia would "simply disintegrate".

Croatia boycotted talks and there were sharp exchanges between Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and Vasil Tupurkovski, his Macedonian counterpart. Slovenia, like Croatia a relatively prosperous, devout Catholic and Central European republic, no longer regards even the possibility of a loose confederation of states as a solution to Yugoslavia's ethnic problems.

Mr Kucan said: "After Slovenia achieves its full independence, I think it is perfectly natural that Croatia will seek independence. It is only a matter of time." He made it clear that the next Slovene delegation to visit Belgrade would be going there to negotiate secession.

In a plebiscite last Christmas, Slovenes voted overwhelmingly for a breakaway. The Slovenes, wooed by Austria, which sees a chance to expand its economic influence to the Adriatic, are confident of a future outside Yugoslavia.

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At the helm: Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, addressing Baltic fleet officers and workers in a Kaliningrad shipyard

## Yeltsin woos Kaliningrad Russians

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AS LITHUANIANS voted in their hundreds of thousands for independence at the weekend, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation leader, applied his exquisite sense of political timing and set off for the neighbouring region of Kaliningrad. For two days, in what was formerly East Prussia, the Russian president promised his ethnic Russian population that neither he nor Russia would forsake them.

Kaliningrad, settled by Russians after the second world war, then militarised and industrialised in the Soviet manner, has often been mentioned as a place where Mr Yeltsin's handwagon could come to a halt. Kaliningrad, said one Soviet commentator, is Yeltsin's Achilles heel. It is the one place where he will be greeted not by ecstatic crowds, but by jeers.

There were no jeers, but there was a distinct coolness, stemming from local worries that he was more concerned about Russians in the main part of the Russian Federation than he was about those living elsewhere. His immediate condemnation of the army's use of force in Lithuania four weeks ago angered sections of Russian opinion in the Baltic which claimed that he did not appreciate their plight as besieged minorities.

Until last year, when it was suddenly declared a free trade zone and simultaneously opened to foreign visitors, Kaliningrad was little more than a fortified outpost of the Soviet empire. Ruled from Moscow and designated part of the Russian Federation, it is on the "wrong" side of the Baltic Sea. If Lithuania became independent, Kaliningrad would be physically cut off from the Soviet Union.

The region depends on Lithuania and Belorussia for fuel, electricity, many raw materials and transport links. A chief fear is that an independent Lithuania would charge high prices for the transfer of freight and the use of railway lines and air corridors and could threaten to sever them altogether.

In recent weeks, rumours have circulated about a possible change in Kaliningrad's status. One suggested that it might be sold off, possibly to united Germany, another that the Kremlin wanted to unite it with Lithuania to boost the proportion of ethnic Russians, so excluding the possibility of a majority for secession in future.

A third said that the Soviet government wanted to resettle ethnic Germans deported to Central Asia from the Volga region under Stalin, a rumour which caused street protests. Over the weekend, Mr

Yeltsin used every opportunity not only to dispel all speculation about the region's future, but also to present himself and the Russian Federation as the guardians of its security and wellbeing. "Even in the long term," he told shipbuilding workers at the Yantar wharf, "Russia will not make any deals with anybody. We shall not give away the Kurile Islands, let alone the Kaliningrad region."

Talking to the Kaliningrad garrison and the Baltic Fleet, Mr Yeltsin denied the recent torrent of accusations that he planned to create a separate Russian army. "I protest against generalisations drawn from one phrase," he said, "because I did not and do not state that Russia will set up its own army." He also insisted that the Russian Federation would maintain its contribution to Soviet defence.

Four weeks ago, after the army intervention in Lithuania, Mr Yeltsin said that a time might come when Russia would need its own armed forces to defend its sovereignty against the centre. His remarks were immediately condemned by President Gorbachev and senior military figures and turned into the focus of a campaign implying that the Russian leader was guilty of treachery and inspiring the armed forces to mutiny.

The third theme of Mr Yeltsin's statements in Kaliningrad was a rebuttal of the charge that his concern for the Baltic republics implied any lesser concern for ethnic Russians living in the region. Defending Russia's practice of signing bilateral agreements with other republics, among them the three Baltic republics, he said: "They ensure the legal basis for defending the rights of the Russian speaking

population, including servicemen."

Each agreement signed so far has included an undertaking that ethnic Russians resident outside Russia should have dual citizenship. Mr Yeltsin told audiences in Kaliningrad that the agreement with Lithuania, which is nearing completion, would include clauses guaranteeing Kaliningrad's supply routes. He also pledged that Russia would help the region to reduce its economic dependence on Lithuania.

The Russian leader's weekend in Kaliningrad is the latest in a series of visits he has made to outlying parts of the Russian Federation. As well as emphasising his prominence as Russia's leader, they also point up the political weakness of President Gorbachev, whose last visit outside Moscow, to Sverdlovsk, took place last April.

## Accident shuts Japanese reactor

Tokyo - Japan has shut down a nuclear reactor after a defective steam generator leaked large quantities of highly radioactive water into its second cooling chamber, officials said.

The accident caused the emergency core-cooling system to pour a huge amount of water into the reactor's core to prevent fuel rods from melting down, they said. The 500,000-kilowatt pressurised water reactor at Fukushima, 220 miles west of Tokyo, is owned and operated by the Kansai electric power company.

The incident marked the first time that an emergency device had shut down a defective nuclear reactor in Japan, which has 38 nuclear power-generating plants. The officials said that there had been no cause for alarm and added that the emergency system had performed as expected. (Reuters)

## Burma arms deal

Rangoon - Burma has agreed to buy arms worth some \$450 million from China, diplomats said. They said the two countries signed a long-term agreement late last year to purchase equipment ranging from jet fighters to small arms. Burma would repay at least half the debt in rice and wood, they said. (Reuters)

## Army chief dies

Lisbon - Portugal's chief of staff of the army, Nario Firmiano Miguel, was killed in a car crash on Saturday night on the road between Lisbon and Estoril. His father-in-law and son, who were travelling with him, were injured. The general was closely involved in Nato planning and restructuring the Portuguese army.

## Somalia clashes

Nairobi - More than 100 people have been reported killed in fighting between the Somali Patriotic Movement and the United Somali Congress near the capital Mogadishu, renewing the civil war that had abated in recent days after Mohamed Siad Barre, the former president, fled late last month. (Reuters)

## Chinese dissident goes on pre-trial hunger strike

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING

CHEN Ziming, the dissident due to face trial today charged with plotting to overthrow the Chinese government, has gone on hunger strike in prison protesting that his lawyer has not had enough time to prepare his defence, sources said yesterday.

Mr Chen, an economist aged 37, has been on hunger strike since last Thursday. His wife, Wang Zhihong, was allowed to see him on Saturday, and sources say he appeared to be in poor health.

Mr Chen is one of the four men described by the authorities as the masterminds, or "black hands", of the pro-democracy movement of spring 1989. All were long-time activists and had worked for the Social and Economic Research Institute, a privately funded institution which advocated radical reform and gained the ear of Zhao Ziyang.



Zhao listened to ideas of radical institute

the ousted party leader. All four face charges of trying to overthrow the government, a crime which carries a minimum sentence of ten years.

Although he has been in detention since October 1989, when he and his wife were caught trying to flee the country, Mr Chen was only given the details of the charges

against him on February 2. The wife of Wang Junao, an editor aged 32 and another of the "black hands" who is due to go on trial tomorrow, has also appealed for more time to prepare a defence, and for an open trial.

Conditions in Qincheng prison's high security wing, for special prisoners, where both men are believed to be detained in solitary confinement, are reportedly good. Cells are large, have their own bathrooms and good heating. Prisoners are served with large meals three times a day, can exercise outside, and may read. It is not known whether detainees will return to this wing after being convicted or whether they will be kept in the far harsher conditions described by other prisoners.

The Chinese legal code says a week is the minimum time allowed between giving a defendant the document detailing charges and a trial.

## French TV man storms to victory

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

COMPETITORS from around the globe did battle in France's worst winter for years at the weekend, when they took part in the first contest to find the best television weather presenter in the world.

A Frenchman, Laurent Cabriol from the state-run channel Antenne-2, carried off the main prize on Saturday evening in the climax of the International Meteorology Festival at the town of Issy-les-Moulineaux, south-west of Paris. Thick snow swirled around and temperatures plunged as low as -5C (23F).

Mr Cabriol, aged 42, says two qualities go to make a good weather man - "journalistic rigour" and "being a live wire".

He has patented his own peculiarly French style of weather report beginning with an initial serious section in which he works from a chart. This is

followed by images of animals, children or sport. "Last night, for example, I showed footage of a dog and a tiger rolling in the snow, like a couple of dogs. This was an image that was full of tenderness. It is an idea I developed myself, a style that does not exist elsewhere. None of my competitors could match it, and I watched them all at the festival."

Mr Cabriol has worked on his programme for three years and has two other presenters to assist him. He says he attracts on average one to two million more viewers each night than the television news bulletin preceding his programme.

He takes the snowy weather in his stride. But he admits the Gulf war sometimes cramps his style. "When there is bad news such as children dying in a winter accident, I fit in a warning, telling them to be careful of the ice. But what really bothers me is the war in the Gulf. If the news is too grim, I have to cut out my light-

hearted section. There are moments when one must not try to be amusing."

Twenty-five presenters from 17 countries fought for the prestigious title of best weatherman. The competitors arrived from climates as different as those of Peru, Morocco, Spain and the United States.

Mr Cabriol also took the trophy for the best bulletin of weather news. A Japanese weatherman, Atsushi Kumasaka of the NHK channel, won the prize for the best designed television weather studio. Penelope Barr of New Zealand's TVNZ finished first in the class for the best look and presentation.

The judges were professional meteorologists, showbusiness personalities and journalists. Next year, organisers plan to hold the festival at Albertville in the Savoy region to coincide with the winter Olympic games.

Weather disruption, page 4

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## Fugitive from kidnap trial appeared outside court

From GAVIN BELL in JOHANNESBURG

ONE of Winnie Mandela's four co-accused who skipped bail last December was present at the courthouse last week when the ANC leader's wife appeared on charges of kidnapping and assault, a newspaper revealed yesterday.

On the very day a warrant was issued for his arrest, Katiza Cebekhulu was among the crowd trying to enter the building to watch the trial, said the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

The acute embarrassment for the police comes a year after Nelson Mandela emerged from prison after almost three decades of confinement. Mr Mandela will spend most of the first anniversary of his freedom today in court, attending his wife's trial.

The Sunday Times said Mr Cebekhulu had made no attempt to conceal his presence or identity, and it published a photograph and

a brief interview with him. The runaway said: "I wanted to hear the trial. I just wanted to see what was going on." He said he had been "around in Soweto" since early December. "I've left the country for short periods then come back in again. No problem."

The disappearance of Mr Cebekhulu, and three other members of Mrs Mandela's bodyguard, led to speculation that the trial might be postponed, but the prosecution proceeded with the cases against Mrs Mandela and three others.

The charges arise from the abduction of four black youths from a church mission in Soweto a year ago, one of whom was later stabbed to death by the leader of Mrs Mandela's "football team". When the trial resumes today, Mr Justice Stegmann will determine whether the state has complied adequately with its instructions to be more specific in its allegations.

It seems unlikely that Mr Mandela will be present throughout the trial. On Thursday, he is due to lead an ANC delegation in talks with President de Klerk in Cape Town about the state of black education. Thereafter, he will turn his attention to issues such as the release of political prisoners, the repatriation of exiles, and preparations for a multi-party conference prior to constitutional negotiations. Young black activists will be agitating for increased militancy at an ANC national congress tentatively planned for June.

Mrs Mandela's trial, which began with preliminary sparring between legal counsel last week, is far more than the prosecution of a celebrity on criminal charges. It is the ANC's commitment to abide by the law pending its revision which is under examination.

As long as the trial goes on, Mr Mandela's attention will be diverted from the more important task of formulating a post-apartheid society. Should his wife be found guilty and imprisoned, the effect on his morale and his approach to constitutional negotiations can only be guessed. There is no doubt that Mr Mandela, aged 72, is deeply devoted to his 56-year-old wife and convinced of her innocence. At a press conference last week, he sharply rebuked a journalist for suggesting she ought to relinquish high-ranking posts in the ANC pending the trial verdict and said: "We have no hesitation in asserting her innocence."

The spectre of his wife being jailed as a criminal must haunt Mr Mandela. Mrs Mandela, an imperious and enigmatic woman, appears relaxed and confident that she will be acquitted to take her place beside her husband when the ANC accedes to power. But her image as "mother of the nation" has been tarnished by the allegations against her, and she appears to be stalking South Africa's political stage like Lady Macbeth.

Atlanta Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the South African government was trying to ally itself with the American-led coalition in the Gulf war so the world would forget about apartheid. "The South African government is very opportunistic in this instance," the archbishop said on Saturday. "They know they are on to a good thing in supporting the West, which is what they used to try to do when they declared themselves to be anti-communist. They hoped the West would support them despite their apartheid."

The archbishop criticised the allies for being too quick to turn to arms. He added that the coalition should have relied on diplomacy and economic sanctions. (Reuters)

## Mandela fights to stay on the high wire

The ANC leader, a year after his release from jail, is caught in a delicate balancing act between reformers and revolutionaries, Shaun Johnson writes

A YEAR ago today, witnessed by television viewers the world over, Nelson Mandela walked to freedom from 27 years' imprisonment. In that 12 months, he has worked unceasingly, walking the tightrope between keeping the unwieldy African National Congress united and showing the South African government that he is the man with whom they can do business.

One government minister, summing it up from Pretoria's point of view, said: "We are very concerned about him. We need him. I don't know what we would do without him." But a youthful black ANC activist said: "I think he is too old, and he has given too much to the Boers."

During a year of struggling to keep on course, it is said that Mr Mandela has seized some opportunities and squandered others. He has been both a disappointment and a delight to the South African public. His quick, impish humour ("I am the only man on earth who can control this woman," he once remarked with mock sadness about his wife Winnie), and his old-world civility and solicitude endears him to all who meet him.

By contrast his public speeches have been dull and uninspiring. He has fought battles with the government and within his own organisation. Those battles still rage, but the reality remains that the political axis constructed by Mr Mandela and President de Klerk is still the only key to the future. Whatever their attitude toward him, Mr Mandela is vital to all who favour a negotiated settlement.

Any "scorecard" of Mr Mandela's performance in his first year of freedom has to go back to the very different political context at the time of his release. When he came through the gates of Victor Verster prison, Mr Mandela's stature was little short of god-like. For the majority of black South Africans, and Africans across the continent, he was Africa's greatest martyr, a deliverer and a messiah.

There were great expectations about the conciliatory miracles he would be able to perform. These expectations were especially high among groups who could not be regarded as falling into Mr Mandela's natural constituency.

It was, after all, Mr Mandela and not the government who had given birth to the negotiating process. In an extraordinarily prescient letter, written from his prison cell to President Botha in 1988, he said: "The key to the

whole situation is a negotiated settlement, and a meeting between the government and the ANC will be the first step towards lasting peace in the country. An accord with the ANC, and the introduction of a non-racial society, is the only way in which our rich and beautiful country will be saved from the stigma which repels the world."

Had he not pre-emptively revealed himself as a statesman-like proponent of peaceful change, later assessments of his performance might have been much less exacting. If he had been expected to be a bitter, hardline militant, his magnanimous gestures would have come as a pleasant surprise and gained him more credit than he has received.

But from the point of view of white South Africans, less militant blacks, and the waiting Western world, Mr Mandela was the acceptable face of the ANC. They expected him miraculously to address, and assuage, their particular concerns.

Thus Mr Mandela's first speech, to a multitude on Cape Town's Grand Parade, was keenly awaited. It left the public holding its breath, unsure — on the basis of the speech's silted contents — of the man's intentions. A very tentative honeymoon persisted: observers could choose to emphasise Mr Mandela's generous characterisation of President de Klerk as a "man of integrity", or they could emphasise his endorsement of the armed struggle and sanctions. The nature of Mr Mandela remained, at that time, in the eye of the beholder.

This began to change within three days of his release. Gerrit Viljoen, the constitutional development minister, attacked him for "naïve" pronouncements in Soweto on nationalisation. But the hostility was still ambivalent. In the same breath, Mr Viljoen praised Mr Mandela's concern for white fears about black domination, and the police welcomed his strong condemnation of crime.

The shield of "sainthood" was beginning to show cracks, as he started to be treated and judged like any other politician. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha movement, criticised him openly for the first time at the end of February and commentators registered alarm as his peace call in Natal went unheeded.

Then came the first of no fewer than 12 trips to foreign countries. On this one, he caused a stir by



Middle man: Mandela's axis with de Klerk remains the key to a negotiated settlement in South Africa

being photographed in an embrace with Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader. The eulogies abroad were increasingly out of step with the doubts and questions being expressed at home, as shown by a newspaper editorial in the first week of March. It said: "Scarcely a day passes without criticism of Nelson Mandela in one or another of the government-supporting newspapers. (They say) his 'mistakes' showed that the release was a brilliant move by the government, designed to expose his weaknesses." At the same time, South Africa's financial publications berated him for "merely trudging the party line" and being "fossilised" on economic issues. A press which had treated him with a sensitivity usually reserved for rare porcelain now began to get rough.

Time and again he made seemingly unnecessary mistakes. His unprepared statement that the British government should negotiate with the IRA was an obvious error.

Violence flared in Transvaal townships, and the fact that his visits to the strife-torn areas did not halt the bloodshed was interpreted as a sign of flagging moral authority. The same reasoning was applied to the continuation of school boycotts, despite the ANC's injunctions for a return to the classrooms.

Mr Mandela's relationship with the government, and President de Klerk, in particular, reached a nadir: a face-to-face meeting was called off, and he accused the state of speaking "the language of negotiation on the one hand, while conducting a war on the other". The rush of bad publicity was compounded by the cancellation of a planned joint address with Chief Buthelezi.

It was tempered by the survival of the "special relationship" between Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk: each time the two leaders met, the negotiating process was dragged back into line and public optimism was restored. Mr Mandela's reputation as a statesman rose after his frank and firm handling of allegations about the torture of dissidents in ANC camps, and again after the successful "Groote Schuur summit" of May 2.

But still the ANC leader faced intractable problems. Legal proceedings against his wife forced him into an unqualified expression of support for her "in the face of harassment". Stirrings began within the ANC among militants who felt he might be giving too much away in his dealings with the government. Unsurprisingly, he was finding it impossible to satisfy all of South Africa all of the time: what was hailed in "pro-negotiations" circles

had the opposite effect among impatient supporters of the ANC.

More difficulties lay ahead. The "red plot" allegations in July — police claimed ANC-aligned communists were planning an armed insurrection — fuelled speculation about a reformist-revolutionary split within the ANC. The suspension of the ANC's armed struggle in the "Fretoria minute" in August showed once again that what went down well in the suburbs did not necessarily have the same effect in the townships.

Mr Mandela was placed in a particularly unpleasant bind regarding the wave of violence in the townships. He blamed a "third force" and castigated the police for failing to staunch the bloodshed: at the same time he condemned Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister, for instituting a security clampdown.

He then endorsed the ANC's programme of "mass action", leading many whites to believe that the peace process was on the verge of collapsing. On December 13 he was driven away by Zulu hostel dwellers in Thokoza township.

The year ended with the ANC consultative conference issuing headline statements, setting deadlines for government compliance, and attacking its leadership. This was the lowest point reached since President de Klerk's speech on February 2.

However, Mr Mandela's performance at the conference heralded a new phase of optimism about a timely and lasting settlement. Firmly grasping the mantle of leadership, he made it clear that while he would be responsive to criticism from the rank and file, he insisted on his right to lead. On January 8, he issued an upbeat new year message and proposed an all-party conference on negotiations. His stature as conciliator was on the rise again, helped by his generous handling of the eventual meeting with Chief Buthelezi, and subsequent decision not to lead the ANC's march on parliament at the beginning of this month.

Mr Mandela continues to walk a perilous tightrope. There will be more slips. There is no question of his own position being under serious threat within the ANC, but he has to keep in check the growing tendency among his supporters to question the wisdom of the negotiations process itself.

He has no choice but to continue to be seen to be endorsing militant protest action, while simultaneously pursuing the parallel process of negotiations with the government. It is a messy approach, and one which will ensure that he comes in for a great deal more criticism in the coming months. But it is the only course available to him.



De Klerk: to discuss black education with Mandela

## ANC anger as police net 11,000

From ASSOCIATED PRESS in JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress has questioned the motives for the arrests of more than 11,000 people in South Africa at the weekend, and demanded a racial breakdown of those held. Police said the arrests were for crimes ranging from murder to cattle theft.

Saki Macozoma, an ANC spokesman, said: "These operations seem to be aimed more at actual crime prevention. We are keenly awaiting a racial breakdown of those arrested so we can see where the concentration of the operation was directed."

About 30,000 members of the police and defence forces fanned out across the country on Friday night in a surprise sweep. Police said they arrested 11,361 people, including 43 for murder, 92 for robbery, and 42 for rape or attempted rape. Items seized included 110 stolen cars, 15,812 gallons of illicit liquor, and uncut diamonds. A total of 428 alleged thieves were arrested, including some for cattle theft.

The sweep followed the highly publicised launching last month of Operation Sentry, an ambitious effort to curb rising violent crime. The law and order ministry said that South Africa's murder rate increased 25 per cent last year compared with 1989, and that there were similar rises for other violent crimes.

The government has blamed the ANC in part for the crime wave, saying that the proliferation of illegal weapons such as AK47s is a result of the organization's past guerrilla campaign which it waged against apartheid.



Out for the count: Vijay Kumar, an Indian census-taker, interviewing a large family in Delhi yesterday

## Teeming India begins world's biggest census

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS in VARANASI

INDIA has begun a detailed headcount of its population, which is probably around 850 million. The number of citizens should exceed a billion in three to four years, challenging China as the most populous country.

Two million enumerators are fanning out across India, clipboard in hand, for the fifth national census since independence. They will attempt to count the occupants of every village, hut, slum, flat, house, and even pavement in the biggest headcount in history. Peking has never tried such a comprehensive census.

The Indian count began on Saturday and is due to be completed in 19 days, with a preliminary announcement of findings late next month. The haste suggests that the results will not be too precise, but precision is perhaps unrealistic when the population increases by 46,000 daily.

The census includes questions about religion and language, but avoids inquiries about caste. It asks about migration, an important issue because of the accelerating flow of people to towns. Delhi alone acquires 10,000 new residents a week. The census will also ask about quality of drinking water.

Details are being fed into a Delhi-based computer via 640 terminals in 14 centres, which, in turn, are receiving information from machines at 163 locations.

Probably well before the end of the decade, India will have more people than China, where family planning regulations may be widely violated, but have some impact. Birth control in India is for the urban well-to-do. In villages, where 80 per cent of the people live, children, or at least sons, are seen as a pension fund, and couples want a big family because of the high mortality rate.

## Cloning test for Lincoln

From CHARLES BREMNER in NEW YORK

AMERICAN scientists are planning to clone tissue from the body of Abraham Lincoln to find out if the president suffered from chronic depression and a rare genetic disorder at the time of his assassination in 1865.

Marc Micocci, director of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, said yesterday that new techniques may make it possible to use dried blood, hair or bone chips from the president's head wound to reconstruct his complete genetic pattern. This could resolve a long dispute over whether Lincoln was suffering from Marfan syndrome, an hereditary ailment that leads those afflicted to grow tall and gangly with weakness in bones and joints, eyes and heart.

The museum doctors, who must await final approval from a special ethics committee set up on Saturday, hope they will also be able to determine whether the 14th president suffered from chronic depression, as several recent biographers have suggested. "There is a lot of potential social value to learning the answers to these questions," Dr Micocci said.

While settling the historians' debate, the studies could also "provide an inspiring perspective" on what people can accomplish despite serious medical problems, he said. Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's theatre in Washington on April 14, 1865. The National Museum has a collection of specimens preserved since the time of the autopsy. These include blood stains from the shirt cuffs of a doctor, locks of hair and bone fragments, which must be tested to find out if they can recover DNA, the basic building block of heredity.

If the committee approves the research, the Lincoln cloning will mark the first occasion that the technique of copying cells has been used for long dead historical figures. The procedure could open the way to the compiling of "genetic libraries" of hundreds of historical figures whose tissues form.

## NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by CHARLES BREMNER

## Valentines regaled by real-life tale of the killer mistress

With Valentine's Day coming up on Thursday it was fitting that New York be treated to another of the twisted lovers' tales beloved of the city tabloid press. In recent weeks, the city has been thrilling to the lurid details of the "Fatal Attraction murder", in which Carolyn Warmus, a blonde teacher aged 27, is accused of firing nine bullets into the wife of her lover, a fellow teacher.

Last week Paul Solomon, the husband, gave his version, describing how he made love to Ms Warmus in a car park, unaware that she had just slipped into his house and killed his wife while he waited for her.

Then, as if one killer mistress were not enough, the figure of Cary Fernandez burst into the headlines. Ms Fernandez is not a teacher. She is a successful nutritionist and consultant to big New York hotels. Police arrested her after a tramp named Starvin Marvin told them that she had

recruited him to murder the wife of Ivbra Ibrahimovic, her lover, who, curiously, is a teacher.

"She wanted me to walk into the elevator and stab her in the chest with an ice pick," said Marvin. "I thought to myself she thinks I'm such a low-down that I'd become a murderer for 800 lousy dollars."

Marvin, who has been advised by police to use only his first name for fear of further contracts, has become something of a celebrity for his act of good citizenship. He said Ms Fernandez had befriended him over several months as he plied the West Side traffic jams with his cardboard cup begging for money.

After she took him to show him the Ibrahimovic flat and bought him a new suit so he could get past the doorman, Marvin went to the police. They equipped him with a "wire" — a recording device — and used the tape to charge Ms Fernandez

with conspiracy to commit murder. Marvin said his biggest difficulty was avoiding recording his friends. "If they started talking about something they might not have wanted the police to know, I started jumping around and acting all crazy."

The annual Valentine's frenzy is reaching its peak, with the usual pink satin and hearts. Recession and war notwithstanding, Tiffany's is offering a \$40,000 heart-shaped diamond. But the hard times have inspired Valentine thinking among makers of some quite unromantic commodities. "Say it with pizza," says one advertisement. "This Valentine's Day, give her a Whirlpool multi-cycle washer," says another.

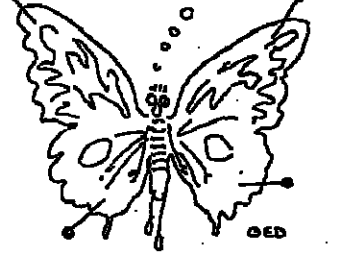
Many owners of pets, or "animal companions" as America's linguistic sanitisers insist they must be called, are buying them Val-

entine's cards as usual, but quite a few will be opting for the latest in treats — acupuncture.

What animal psychiatry was a few years ago to the nervous poodles of Park Avenue, acupuncture is today. From California to New York, dogs, cats, and other household beasts are being given the needle. Tyler, Henry Kissinger's arthritic Labrador, lately deceased, was one celebrity recipient of the technique.

Dr Allen Schoen, acupuncture expert at the Animal Medical Centre of New York, made Tyler's last days easier. He is now

So much for acupuncture



treating Zema, a dog owned by Milos Forman, the film director.

In San Gabriel, California, Wu Li Hsia is applying the ancient Chinese technique to anxious goldfish. She inserts the needles just below the dorsal fin and now has an aquarium full of relaxed goldfish, according to The Wall Street Journal, one of the newspapers to take serious note of the lucrative new practice.

Acupuncture is also proving useful in ridding African grey parrots and cockatoos of their nervous habits, apparently arising from boredom, such as a tendency to pick at their feathers.

For all those American parents brought up in the days when pep cats dug that crazy beat or who thought that going to the disco was fab or groovy, the University of California has just produced an "official dictionary of college slang".

Compiled in a two-year survey of West Coast students, it is a useful primer for decoding the

latest US college-speak, a dialect distinct from street-slang, which is dominated by black jargon such as "bad" for good and "nasty", meaning lovely.

Since so much US youth dialect crosses the Atlantic about a year or two after gaining currency here, Britons may care for advance notice. For a start, "cool" and "fab" are definitely "cheez whizz" (out of date). The dictionary has lots of dank (good) and stellar (excellent) expressions, most of which revolve around those old college activities "thrugging" and "screaming", or drinking and dallying with the opposite sex.

Cosmo (popular) students do a lot of both, while barneys (misfits) and aggroes (hotheads) see less action and risk being treated as "haemorrhoids", or "annoying persons". Students, it seems, are also tired of adults "begging on" (criticising) them "24-7" (all the time — 24 hours a day, seven days a week).



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# Fighting for the middle

Ronald Butt

The prime minister this week-end gave the clearest sign so far of the direction in which he intends to take the Conservative party: back to the political middle ground. That was the clear message of his speech to the Young Conservatives, with its unqualified assertion of a wish for an "unending search for better public services". The middle ground is also, of course, the goal towards which Neil Kinnock has long been leading Labour. All parties are now trying to occupy the same narrow terrain.

Tory acceptance of the politics of the middle ground enabled them to hold power for almost a quarter of a century after 1951, except for Labour's six years under Harold Wilson. The Tories accepted that part of the Attlee legacy which the people wanted: the welfare state and the aim of full employment. They rejected what was unpopular — further nationalisation, controls and high taxation.

During that time, nobody precisely defined what the middle ground meant (if precise definition is possible), but it was roughly assumed that possession of it would bring the allegiance of voters who potentially floated between parties. Put another way, it was the ground occupied by reasonable and moderate people who were not constrained by rigid political dogma, were hostile to extremes and believed in the broadest possible consent.

Iain Macleod, the shrewdest instinctual politician since the war, put it like this at a time of troubles for the Tories in 1963: "It would have been impossible for the Conservative Party, after its defeat in 1945, to reform and reorganise itself if it had said the voters had chosen wrongly."

A year later, when Labour was in power, Macleod (who is something of a model for Mr Major) warned his party against relying on Labour's shortcomings. "I look to the centre and I see no movement there... For the first time in five elections our grip on the centre has weakened." He was right. In the further election of 1966, Labour was returned with a full majority. Mr Major is also right if he now senses that once again the Tories' danger is to appear to have lost command of the centre to Labour.

In 1964 and 1966, Labour was temporarily able to take the centre ground because of Tory mistakes and because Hugh Gaitskell and (later) Harold Wilson had fought their extremists in order to convert Labour to the idea of social democracy based on a mixed economy, planning by consent and liberal public spending to be paid for, in theory, by growth. It was an experiment that largely failed.

Though Labour had established its democratic credentials under Attlee, it still lived by the visionary doctrine that eventually, although by parliamentary means, a good society based on socialism would

be attained, in which the state would provide all essential services and control the economy.

So when Labour again narrowly returned to office in 1974, after the unions had destroyed Edward Heath's Tory government, it moved rapidly to the left, abandoning the middle ground. By 1979, when the Tories returned under Mrs Thatcher, Labour had shifted the left-end goalposts so much further left that the whole political pitch was changed. The middle ground was no longer somewhere equidistant between the Tories and what Labour had become. Apart from this, Mrs Thatcher had to face the fact that most of the old mixed economy assumptions had been proved not to work.

The successes of the Thatcher years have forced Labour under Mr Kinnock to move rightwards and to accept the principles of the market economy, including even the relegation of public ownership. But the Tory concentration on establishing the market has left other problems unanswered: above all the state of many public services.

In theory, Mrs Thatcher would have liked to see more people provide for their own welfare (health and education), leaving the state to cater only for real need. In fact, she knew this was impracticable and Tories spent as much on welfare as other governments — which still left the public services substandard.

Mr Major has now said, rightly, that though the role of government should be limited, the Conservatives "must never accept that limited government means the lowering of standards." But this does not answer the question how better standards are to be paid for without inflation and whether, for instance, some restricted charges might be feasible. Mr Kinnock, offering the same, is in precisely the same dilemma. Likewise, the gap is closing between the parties on education. Labour is modifying its old egalitarian instincts, placing a new emphasis on standards and even contemplating post-14 streaming in academic and vocational courses for children.

The question now, therefore, is how the rival parties can capture the middle ground at a time when their aims are increasingly shared. Labour's success in doing so in 1964 rested heavily on the conversion of middle-class opinion by an intellectual climate in favour of planning as the way to prosperity. No such prevailing climate helps Labour today. Equally, the Tories are handicapped by the damage to confidence caused by the recession their policies have created. In the end, middle-ground voters will be swayed more by the collective personalities of the two parties and their leaders than by the claims they make for their policies.

Yet for all the criticisms of Thatcherism, today's voters will no more wish to lose its benefits than those of 1951 wanted to lose the benefits of the welfare state. Given Labour's known instincts, Mr Kinnock's task of reassuring the voters that he will build on the best of Thatcherism will probably be harder than Mr Major's insistence that this is his aim too.

Zig Layton-Henry says it is not John Taylor but his critics who are unrepresentative

# A triumph for one-nation Toryism

Yesterday's confirmation by a majority of more than two to one of the black barrister John Taylor as prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham will be hailed as a landmark in British politics. But does Mr Taylor's selection really herald a sea-change in relations between the Conservative party and the British Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities? The publicity attached to this test case must have influenced the result. Does it truly indicate that the Conservative party is more willing to confront racism within its ranks? Will black and Asian men and women be able to advance within it?

Only a tiny proportion of Conservative party members are non-white, and the party's efforts to win the growing black and Asian electorate since the mid-1970s have had limited success, unsympathetic statements by leading Conservatives and tough policies, particularly on immigration, have caused considerable antipathy to the party.

Nevertheless, the department of community affairs at Central Of-

fice has since 1974 encouraged black and Asian people to join the party through the Anglo-Asian and Anglo-West Indian Conservative societies and the One Nation forum. Mr Taylor's selection at Cheltenham owes something to the efforts of this department.

However, speculation that he was "foisted" on the constituency party can be discounted. Central Office knows how jealously constituency associations guard their selection rights, and the strong support for Mr Taylor from constituency officers and executive council indicates that he is their chosen candidate.

The procedure by which the executive council offers only one candidate to the adoption meeting may with hindsight be considered unwise, but is often accepted practice. Now that Mr Taylor's selection has been endorsed, most members can be expected to rally loyally behind him.

Opposition to Mr Taylor came from a small minority of members who appeared to object to him on racist grounds. Their objections might be expressed in non-racist terms, such as preference for a local

representative, but this begs the question: representative in what sense? Selection committees have never assumed that a local person is always the best. Mr Taylor is clearly a candidate of considerable ability with a record of service to the Conservative party.

Will he hold the seat? Recent research shows that the electorate is more willing to accept black and Asian candidates than it was 20 years ago, when Dr David Pitt unexpectedly lost the Labour seat of Clapham. Conservative voters seem particularly loyal to their party's candidates, and Mr Taylor thus has an excellent chance of winning. He may even gain significant support from Cheltenham's prosperous, well-educated Liberal voters. His opponents may find they are not only unrepresentative of the local association but of the Cheltenham electorate too.

Racism is a difficult issue for the Conservatives to handle, since they are proud to regard theirs as the "patriotic" party. But patriotism can easily slip into chauvinism and racism. There have always been Conservative politicians willing to exploit national-

ism and racism when expedient. It is interesting to compare the present position of blacks and Asians with that of Jewish immigrants at the turn of the century. Conservative politicians such as Major Evans Gordon were then prominent in the anti-Jewish agitation, and the Aliens Act of 1905 was partly an attempt to exploit anti-Jewish feeling among the electorate at a time when the Conservatives were unpopular. Jews were stereotyped as extremist and communist, and for decades were strongly anti-Conservative. Today, anti-Semitism is rare in the Tory party, Jewish voters are as likely to vote Conservative as Labour, and Jews held high office in Mrs Thatcher's cabinets.

At present, British black and Asian communities are strongly Labour, with 76 per cent of blacks supporting Labour, 9 per cent the Conservatives, 8 per cent the Liberal Democrats and 4 per cent the Greens. Among Asians, 68 per cent support Labour, 18 per cent the Conservatives, 7 per cent the Liberal Democrats and 5 per cent the Greens. As yet, non-whites have not overcome discrimination

and achieved a social and residential mobility that will enable them to follow the Jewish example.

The achievement of John Taylor in winning the endorsement of the Cheltenham Conservative Association is a small step in his political career but a giant step for the Conservative party. The support he has obtained from John Major, Norman Tebbit and senior ministers suggests that today's Conservative leaders wish to show that black and Asian men and women of ability can advance in British society, and that they can make a contribution even in an area as hitherto unpromising as the Conservative party.

The bold decision of the Cheltenham Conservatives has forced racism out into the open, and the response of the party leadership and yesterday's special meeting has been hearteningly positive. This augurs well for Mr Major's intention to create a society based on merit rather than class or social origin. It is an auspicious beginning to his reign as Conservative leader.

The author is senior lecturer in politics at Warwick University.

# Let tolerance take its time

Many years ago, I found myself defending from injustice three groups of people: the smokers, the Freemasons and the homosexuals. Now as far as I am concerned smoking is a nasty habit which I shun. Freemasonry strikes me as harmless nonsense, and as for homosexuals, if anyone suggests that I row in that boat myself I shall slap him and scream.

All three groups realised at once that they had found somebody who was not one of them but was willing to champion them against hostility, discrimination and myth. Since then, as regular readers will acknowledge with a sigh, I have written repeatedly about cases of discrimination or other kinds of ill-treatment undergone by people in those three groups.

Now, however, the debate has widened. Mr Derek Jarman, a homosexual who is HIV-positive, recently attacked the actor Ian McKellen for accepting a knighthood. He said that Mr McKellen should not have done so, because the present government discriminates against homosexuals (McKellen is one); Jarman might have gone further, because government-proposed amendments to forthcoming local government legislation will, if implemented, reverse some decades of gradual acceptance of homosexuals.

Jarman's denunciation was followed by a rapid response from a group of 18 people anxious to defend Mr McKellen (not least on the ground that he has raised millions of pounds for AIDS sufferers). But the startling aspect of the 18's round robin was that all were content to announce that they were homosexuals.

This process, of revealing a homosexual nature, is called "coming out", and it has been practised in America so long, so assiduously, so aggressively and with so much noise, that even I have more than once been tempted to beg some of them to go back in again. The practice in Britain is much more restrained, and only a small number of British homosexuals have as yet been willing to reveal their sexual nature — a reluctance based, all too correctly, on the injustices still practised upon homosexuals in this country.



After the McKellen knighthood dispute, Bernard Levin warns homosexuals against American-style pressure

No such inhibition troubled the signatories of the round robin, though I dare say that many people would have received the news of their sexual orientation with surprise and some of them — here's the rub — with a shudder.

You may smile a sophisticated smile, not least because the list of signatories to the declaration was very heavily weighted in the direction of show-business: in proportion of homosexuals in show-business is vastly greater than among the public generally, and he (or she) who does not know that must be innocent indeed.

But if the smiles fade under the assault of the shudder, we are in real trouble: look out for the return of the word "queer" in popular use (Mr Jarman used it deliberately in his polemic, but I presume only to reinforce his point), and indeed look out for serious damage to the gradual acceptance of sexual diversity that has been growing

steadily in recent years. You may argue that the very fact of the declaration shows that prejudice is no more; alas, the truth is that it is only in show-business that homosexuals have a licence to be what they are; elsewhere in society there is fear, soundly based, that revealing a homosexual nature will invite serious discrimination.

Would you like to be an innocent homosexual teacher in a prominent public school when Esther Rantzen is on the prowl? (I suppose she must have asked Des about sex in male public schools, on which she could hardly be expected to be well-informed; the trouble with Des, apart from the noise his wife makes, is that although he went to a public school of sorts he has forgotten that the homosexuality in all-male public schools was, and I dare swear still is, by mutual consent between two boys — who, incidentally, almost never came to

any harm — rather than between a paedophilic homosexual teacher and an unwitting child victim.)

I managed to go through my entire public-school career in a state of such sexual innocence and ignorance that it would today be classified as imbecility. There was one teacher who, after our compulsory swimming, would put his head in at each cubicle, and occasionally helped to dab the dripping form within; I dare say he got a thrill out of it, and I dare say that was why he did it, but I shudder retrospectively at the danger which that harmless elderly man would run today, when the country is swarming with committees of public safety intent upon throwing into jail any man who says good morning to any child.

I have asked this question before, but since I got no answer, I am obliged to ask it again: when will the British grow up? When, that is, will they cease to regard

homosexuals as an undifferentiated mass worthy of nothing better than titers and diminishing epithets, rather than as a number of ordinary people who have only one thing in common, just as heterosexuals are a number of ordinary people who have only one thing in common?

I do not know, but in any case there is a shadow on the progress of reason. In America, it is now almost impossible to speak or write words in any public medium stating or even implying that homosexuality is, say, morally wrong, or contrary to God's law, or merely disgusting. I do not hold any of those views, but I would be appalled if the censorship (and, worse, self-censorship) that is now rife in America should appear in Britain.

The right to be bigoted has been almost extinguished there; indeed, in many matters it is a criminal offence, and if the scores of special-interest groups who are demanding, ever more shrilly, that they too should be protected by law from the dislike of other people, there will be very little chance left for genuine criticism, let alone hostility, in public speech or writing. Our tabloids are condemned in America for their vulgarity, intrusion and mendacity; but the cowardice of the American press, including — indeed, most prominently — the serious newspapers, in the face of nothing worse than the demands of factional groups is far more contemptible, if only because it is dangerous as well.

The acceptance of homosexuality in this country has been slow, and is still not rapid. But any attempt — by force, noise or legislation — to quicken the pace artificially will fail, and will almost certainly set back the progress already made. It is cold comfort for homosexuals still enduring penalties and hostility to be told that they must be patient; but they must, and the worst thing they could do is to borrow the methods of American homosexuals. The Outstanding Eighteen were dignified, calm and wise. Dignity, calm and wisdom offer the only chance of a true and final end to discrimination.

...and moreover

# MATTHEW PARRIS

"POLICE and motoring organisations", say the news flashes, "are warning motorists not to drive unless their journey is absolutely necessary."

In fact nearly all Britain's main roads are open, though conditions vary, and in parts the going is slow. Those travelling by rail — most lines open but fewer trains — will generally get there, but late.

On Thursday night I travelled by train from London to Derby and drove from Derby to Matlock. On Friday I drove to Grindleford to meet a friend arriving by train from Scotland. On Saturday two friends arrived who had driven from near Birmingham. On Sunday they returned with similar ease. Here in Derbyshire we have all had a nice weekend and have been for lovely walks in the snow.

How about you? Was it "hellacious"? Were conditions "atrocious"? Did the weather "wreak havoc"? Are there words left in our language to describe the sheer torment of needing to take care, and of journeys lasting longer than usual?

In due course we shall emerge from "arctic" winter into spring, which is even more dangerous because "cold snaps" send "black ice" when the motorist's guard is down. In summer, bank holidays bring "chaos" and every shower turns greasy surfaces into "skid pans"; then autumn, when wet leaves and killer fog-patches make "driving conditions treacherous"... And so we proceed, ransacking the vocabulary as we go.

Imagine the result if everybody had heeded recent police advice not to drive unless the journey was "absolutely necessary". Is it absolutely necessary — or even necessary — that newspapers be distributed? That any individual shopkeeper open his shop, or his wholesalers make their planned delivery? Clearly not. In how many jobs is it "absolutely necessary" that employees turn up on any given day? Only a tiny proportion.

Had we obeyed, then, there would have been no newspapers this morning, most shops would have gone to work, and the nation would be heading for serious food shortages.

But we did not obey. We were not supposed to. Official notices are not issued in order that people obey them. They are issued with two different aims in view. First, the authorities are covering themselves, lest anyone who comes to grief complains that he was not warned. Second, they genuinely do wish the most vulnerable to stay at home, and to keep the most stupid off the roads, but — finding no means of addressing these people alone — must address the message to all.

Some grown-ups learn, over the years, that 19 out of 20 instructions are fabulous, the twentieth is not, and that you have to distinguish for yourself. Other adults take the whole lot seriously and are called "responsible". In fact they are the victims of an insidious irresponsible, first popularised

by the boy who cried "wolf" and now made respectable by a legion of public authorities. Its logical conclusion would be for the government to issue an instruction every morning that nobody should get up at all. Then we would have only ourselves to blame if anything went wrong.

The first casualty of this responsibility is the English language. The vocabulary of risk is debauched so that nobody can tell any longer what degree of danger it is intended to signify.

Secondary casualties are human: those who do nothing (because everything sounds so dangerous), and those who do everything (because they believe nothing they hear) and come a cropper. In short, people who overstate dangers "to be on the safe side" are endangering others in order to cover themselves. The cover they purchase is immediate, tangible and complete. The cost is indirect, intangible, proceeds by gentle accretion, and is borne by the language to which they are heir.

Ever since meteorologists were criticised for understating the likely force of the great storm of 1987, weathermen have erred the other way. We now discount regular predictions of "dangerous high winds". Ever since art criticism blundered in its reception of Impressionism, every piece of rubbish has — safely — been found "interesting", and a thousand charlatans have prospered. Never mind the treacherous roads, I say. Who is looking after the language?

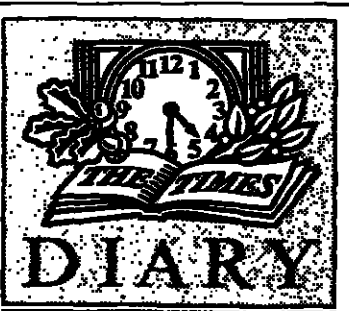
# Who will sell the Tories?

While John Major's impromptu visit to a Happy Easter restaurant at the weekend suggests that he is conducting his own publicity campaign most effectively, Shaun Woodward, the Conservatives' new communications director, is about to come to grips with one of the thorniest issues facing the party in the run-up to the next election: helping to choose an advertising agency to handle the £1 million campaign account.

Woodward, who succeeds Brendan Bruce at Central Office today, will take the decision in consultation with the party chairman, Chris Patten. In an age when image is of vital importance, he knows the outcome of the election could hinge on their making the right choice.

Saatchi and Saatchi, which became a household name thanks to its work on Mrs Thatcher's three election victories, is said to be seeking the account. Winning it would be a great fillip to morale and the Saatchi brothers' financial problems. But the agency's relations with Smith Square suffered from reports that after "wobbly Thursday" in 1987, Tory campaign was salvaged only when Mrs Thatcher called in her favourite advertising guru, Tim Bell — knighted in the resignation honours list.

Mrs Thatcher and Bell are gone, but opponents of Saatchi say they will merely be granted a polite hearing. "John Major is determined not to look like Mrs Thatcher in a suit," says one insider. "If he chose Saatchi he could be accused of too close an association with the old regime." Patten has asked his close friend Peter Gummer, of the Shandwick public relations company and



brother of the agriculture minister, to draw up a shortlist of advertising agencies. Gummer is now asking the main contenders how they would win over the C2 voter. Woodward himself should have no trouble spotting the agency with the best understanding of the man in the street — before starting his new job he was a producer on *That's Life*.

# Say it with animals

London Zoo, at first sight an unlikely place to find a special Valentine's Day gift, has just launched a variation on its annual adoption scheme with February 14 in mind. For a fee that varies according to the animal chosen, the zoo will print the name of a loved one on a personal animal adoption certificate with a photograph of the selected beast.

A spokesman says: "We have more than 8,000 animals at the

zoo looking for adopters. Many are well suited to St Valentine's Day." To signify a lasting attachment, for example, a spouse or swain can adopt a leech for £15 a year. Those with happy romantic memories might go for an elephant, at £20, while the cuddly koala — at £4,000 the most expensive on offer — provides the ultimate test of love.

● We have had brilliant tour-naments and life-size chocolate statues, but trust the Japanese to dream up the most bizarre way of marking the Mozart bicentenary: a bottle of sake sold under the name "Mozart K.O.01" and fermented to the strains of the master's music.

# Gentle persuader

Like some literary Grand National, Bruce Anderson, the leading contender in the race to produce the first biography of John Major, has been edged into second place by fellow scribe Edward Pearce. Anderson, former *Sunday Telegraph* political commentator, had planned to finish his manuscript this month for publication by Fourth Estate in April, but will not now deliver until early March. Pearce, ahead of schedule, hopes to have his manuscript with Weidenfeld and Nicolson a few days earlier.

Pearce, who has applied for the editorship of *New Statesman* & *Society*, has tentatively entitled his work *Persuasion: The Quiet Rise of John Major*. "Major is a great Jane Austen fan and rereads her regularly," says Pearce. "His whole technique is gentle persuasion. I had two interviews with him last week and am ready for one last push to finish the manuscript. I mustn't gloat, but I look like being first."

of Major for the dustjacket. "Like other artists, she is having trouble with the mouth," says Pearce.

# Waiting for the off

The polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes has had to postpone his Oman expedition in search of the lost biblical city of Wabar for the second time. The Sultan has promised him Land Rovers and helicopters, but because of the Gulf war deems it prudent that his armed forces hang on to them.

Fiennes originally planned to begin his trip into Oman last November. After the invasion of Kuwait he postponed it until mid-April, confidently predicting a swift allied victory. "I have to admit that I was wrong," he says, "though with anybody other than Saddam I would have been right." Because the heat leads out an expedition during the summer, he now hopes it will be third time lucky this November.

Using photographs taken by the space-shuttle Challenger, Fiennes has located seven possible sites as the location of Wabar, once the centre of the region's important frankincense trade — an impressive piece of detective work given that he started with an area of 200 square miles. With skills like that, he should make for the Gulf now and help to locate Saddam's Scud missile launchers.

● Mrs Thatcher, it seems, is not the only one who misses the job of prime minister. John Major has quickly become used to guests at Downing Street asking to see the cabinet room, but he was surprised at one such request from a guest who is no stranger to power. The man wanting another wistful look was none other than Lord Callaghan, retiring the three years after he was half a lifetime ago — when he presided over the famous table.





## TIMING FOR VICTORY

The harsh decrees published by President Saddam Hussein yesterday confirm how seriously Iraq's economy is being crippled by the heaviest bombing campaign in history. But there is still no indication that Iraq will surrender without a land war. Political, military and climatic conditions all point to an allied ground assault quite soon.

President Bush decided last November to double American ground strength in Saudi Arabia. That reflected the conviction of his chief military commander, General Colin Powell, that only an integrated air-land-sea campaign would drive Iraq out of Kuwait. When he dispatched General Powell and the American defence secretary, Richard Cheney, to Saudi Arabia last week for strategic consultations with allied commanders, Mr Bush declared himself "sceptical" that air power alone could do the job and insisted that he would not "delay for the sake of delay, hoping that it would save lives". In a remarkable letter, he has promised President Mubarak that the ground offensive would begin by "the third week of February".

Yet the massive repositioning of allied divisions and supplies along the Kuwaiti frontier in the past fortnight has been accompanied by ambivalent American statements. General Schwarzkopf has taken to prefacing references to a land war not with a "when", but an "if". Mr Cheney, insisting on the primacy of minimising American casualties, says the air war will go on until all possible Iraqi military targets are hit.

Powerful voices in Congress and in Washington's strategic think tanks continue to oppose any commitment of ground force. They prefer the "bloodless" alternative of grinding down Iraq's military through air power alone. They fear that Saddam's armies could inflict such heavy losses on American troops as to destroy public support for this war. That in turn would sacrifice the deterrent impact of eventual victory on future aggressors by diminishing America's will in future to play global policeman. Iraq's Achilles heel, they argue, is its military supply lines. Given time, the air war, a form of "sanctions with teeth", could starve Iraq's troops in Kuwait into

surrender or retreat. Why then launch men across Saddam's sand berms, minefields, barbed wire and tank traps?

This policy shows an extreme antipathy to risk, and there is no real evidence that it has taken hold of American policy. Air power, Mr Bush knows, cannot seize and hold ground or take prisoners — both indispensable to inflicting on Saddam a military defeat. Without a ground assault, the allies will find it increasingly difficult to justify an air war which would increasingly appear aimed not at the liberation of Kuwait but the destruction of Iraq, and death for many of its population, civilian as well as military.

Western publics have no way of knowing how much Iraqi equipment must be destroyed to degrade Iraq's combat effectiveness and give the allies maximum military advantage. They will become increasingly uneasy at the annihilation of Iraq's conscript "poor bloody infantry" from the air. Western governments will worry that Arab sympathy for the goal of saving American lives will diminish in proportion to the numbers of Arab dead. All ground forces are dangerous and therefore legitimate targets, but even Mr Cheney admits that the air war will reach "a point of diminishing returns".

Political considerations are bound to intrude into military calculations in this most political of wars, but they must not be allowed to dominate them. If delay is militarily prudent, the allies should still delay. The length of the air war will be remembered only if the ground offensive is prolonged or inconclusive. The new phase of that war will concentrate on the ground forces as never before, taking the assault away from built-up areas into the deserts of Kuwait and the Iraqi border.

There is merit in confirming the allies' determination to prosecute an integrated war (an emphasis which would, *inter alia*, reinforce the dire warnings President Gorbachev has instructed his emissary to deliver to Baghdad). But there is none in diluting the priority so far given to military calculations. The allies must attack when, and only when, their generals conclude that the time is ripe.

## RESOLUTELY ONTO THE ROCKS

On economic policy, Mr Major's back may be against a wall, or even a precipice, as one of his backbenchers suggested over the weekend. But yesterday he was unyielding. Inflation is Britain's "core" economic problem, he said on BBC radio. The government would stick to its unpopular and painful measures to keep inflation falling. There was "no choice", he added, presumably in conscious imitation of Mrs Thatcher's favourite slogan from the last recession — There Is No Alternative.

Unfortunately, as unemployment threatens to climb this week above two million and CBI surveys show the recession spreading to every region of the country, this is no time for simple re-assertion of Mrs Thatcher's "resolute approach". Unless the government takes action soon to revive the economy, this recession will probably degenerate into an economic calamity rivaling the 1980-81 slump. But unlike the last recession, this one will be extremely difficult to justify.

The slump of 1980-81 was economically necessary to curb rampant union power and 20 per cent inflation. Politically, it was defensible as the by-product of a brave new leader's economic revolution. But why is a bloodletting needed today? Electorally, the impact of the 1980 slump was lessened because the unemployment was mainly confined to Labour voters in unionised heavy industries. But this recession is hitting Conservative rather than Labour supporters. Labour voters now tend to work in the public sector, which is partially insulated from the recession. The pain this time is being felt by the new generation of service-industry Tories. This explains the results of today's *Times* survey showing that unemployment has risen five times as fast in Conservative as in Labour held constituencies.

For all these reasons, Mr Major will almost certainly act sooner or later to boost the economy, even if the pound remains below its midpoint in the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM). Whether he

cuts interest rates this week, as some City analysts are predicting, or waits for Norman Lamont's budget on March 17, is merely a question of political and financial tactics.

The chances are that he will wait the extra month, hoping to impress foreign exchange markets with his steadfastness. He would be better advised to cut rates immediately. That would not only save the businesses that would fail and the jobs that would be lost as a result of waiting, but leave him more time before the general election to start testing market reaction to the potential policy conflict between ERM membership and domestic monetary requirements.

There is a danger that the country's obsession with interest rates may give rise to unrealistic hopes about the benefits from their reduction. Optimists have only to look to America, where overnight interest rates are down to 6 1/2 per cent and the dollar has been allowed to fall without apparent limit, to see that easier monetary policy does not provide an instant cure for recession.

Even on the most rosy view of the constraints imposed by ERM membership, British interest rates are unlikely to fall below 11 or 12 per cent for a long time. This means that other measures will be required, including higher public spending targeted at projects which will swiftly create private sector jobs, constructing schools, homes and roads.

As for inflation, it will almost certainly fall to 5 per cent or less by the end of the year. But the real test of the government's anti-inflationary policy will come later, when the economy is reviving. That will be the time to tighten monetary policy, defend the exchange rate, restrain public spending and curb excessive mortgage borrowing and other forms of credit. That is what Nigel Lawson should have done in 1987 and 1988. The time to fight inflation is in an economic boom, not in the depth of a recession. The siren voices are those which sing of "economic miracles" in boom-time not those which call the ship of state away from the recessionary rocks.

## ROYAL CAKES AND ALE

Only relatively recently — that is to say, over the past two or three centuries — has the role of the royal family in time of war been in any doubt. Before that time, the clear duty of the royals was to lead troops in battle. The King was the warrior king. No mere general won Agincourt. Queen Elizabeth I, by dint of her sex, was an exception, but she was the custodian of strategy and the indomitable incarnation of the will to win.

In some countries, the royal family retains this ancient role. King Fahd directs the Saudi war effort. His cousin, Prince Khalid bin Sultan, is commander-in-chief and dashing minor prince pilot the best of his airforce. In Britain, however, no new royal has been available to step into the frontline on which Prince Andrew served in the Falklands. In war, as in peace, the royal family has been reduced to important but essentially symbolic duties.

Yesterday, its conduct of those duties in the present Gulf war came under fire in a gleefully-promoted editorial in the *Sunday Times*, accusing the royal family of "upper class decadence and insensitivity". It stung the Palace into the less-than-dignified posture of public rebuttal. The defenders were able to draw on royal diaries full of

engagements in support of the forces. The Duke of York as colonel-in-chief of the Staffordshire regiment took time off his naval duties to visit his regiment before it left for the Middle East. The Prince of Wales has been to Saudi Arabia, the Princess of Wales to Germany, the Queen to RAF Marham and so forth.

Such impeccable devotion to duty has not prevented some of them from also having a good time. The Duchess of York skis; Prince Philip and his oldest son shoot; and the Princess of Wales's brother is found to have engaged, in Paris, in another popular pastime not entirely neglected by past members of the royal family. Po-faced puritans criticise such shenanigans, and the Queen is urged to put a stop to it.

She should do no such thing. Quite enough damage to the allied war effort has been done by various forms of unwarranted panic. The best way to reassure the windy is to behave normally. A bit of minor cavorting on the side is part of the normal life of certainly the lesser and younger members of the royal family. So long as they do not neglect their duties, they need not — indeed should not — abjure all pleasure. What could be a worse example?

## Contingency fund for 'wonder' drugs

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)

Sir, May I join my voice to those of the renal specialists complaining about a lack of funds to provide erythropoietin (EPO) to kidney patients suffering from acute anaemia (report, February 2).

Recently I had a successful kidney transplant but for seven years was on dialysis. I was fortunate enough to be a guinea pig in the clinical trials on EPO and can confirm that it is a "wonder drug". It restored my haemoglobin to near normal, gave me enough energy to dig the garden as well as a new sense of well-being. I have no doubt it helped me perform my parliamentary duties better and contributed to the success of my transplant.

But I was one of the lucky few. As a result of pressure on hospital budgets only about 50 per cent of those who need the drug are getting it. Some GPs are helping out by prescribing for renal patients. Others are reluctant to do so, on the basis that EPO is a new drug without a sufficiently established track record.

Whatever the case, EPO presents the Department of Health with a challenge on which a joint working party set up by the department and the NHS to look into problems associated with the transfer of prescribing from hospitals to GPs may be able to offer guidance.

It is not enough for the department to argue that it is up to health authorities to decide their priorities. They have so many calls on their budgets that a new drug — even one as good as EPO — must seem like an unwanted financial burden. Improved drugs are coming forward all the time. Some are variants of what is already there; others are in the "wonder" category.

Surely a departmental contingency fund should be created to ensure that the latter, at least, are available for those who really need them. Otherwise, what is the point of producing them?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON  
(President, National Federation of Kidney Patients' Associations),  
House of Commons,  
February 4.

## Debt forgiveness

From Mr N. C. Sebago-Montefiore

Sir, Poland is currently renegotiating its official debt position. Three quarters approximately of its foreign debt is "official", much of it in the form of export credits, and substantial debt relief is one of the main remaining conditions essential for the country's economic recovery. Most of the conditions over which its control have been met; this undoubtedly also applies to Hungary and to a lesser extent to Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia (where debt levels are lower).

Many of these export credits were granted under "national interest" clauses and supported exports from the OECD countries during the oil shock period of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Nobody asked if they were in the interest of the buying countries or felt obliged to monitor the projects. If the goods were delivered on the project erected, that was enough.

It is worth recalling that the London Accord of 1953 (which renegotiated German official debt, covering pre-war bonds and debts and post-war government debt owed to the USA, UK and France) was stated, at that time, to have reduced German debt by over 50 per cent — from about DM29.5 billion to about DM14.5 billion. With hindsight, that reduction has been recalculated at 80 per cent.

Should Poland or Hungary be treated worse? Despite Treasury pressure throughout the world, justice and realism require our governments to be generous.

Yours faithfully,  
N. C. SEBAGO-MONTEFIORE,  
180 Kensington Park Road, W11.

## The law's delays

From Mr Andrew Page

Sir, I cannot accept your reference (leading article, January 29) to "Lord Mackay's great reform of the restrictive practices of the legal profession". Many clients of mine in a City solicitors' practice are being disadvantaged by:

1. The failure of the Lord Chancellor's Department to ensure a proper complement of Queen's Bench masters in the High Court in London to avoid having to wait up to four months for a return date in interlocutory hearings which should be heard within four weeks at most of the date of issue.
  2. The edict of the Lord Chancellor's Department that, during the latter months of 1990, part-time industrial tribunal chairmen should not take cases for hearing because the budget had overrun.
  3. The persistent attitude of court staff in and out of London that the judge's time must not be wasted, even if counsel, expert witnesses, solicitors and clients have to hang around in draughty corridors, sometimes for the best part of a day.
  4. The fact that legal aid is still far too restrictive, so that deserving cases sometimes go by default.
- Until there are more courts and more judges, the litigant, whom the law is supposed to serve but who too often appears to exist for the benefit of the court, will continue to suffer.
- Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW PAGE,  
16 Ailsa Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.

## An 'inbred desire for war' questioned

From Commander A. G. W. Bellars, RN (ret)

Sir, Richard Lynn's argument ("Curbing our inbred desire for war", February 2) that mankind has a biological instinct for war is not borne out by what members of the coalition forces have been saying on TV from the Gulf. Phrases such as "nobody wants war" or "I don't want to kill anybody" have been heard from a succession of soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

General Schwarzkopf himself has spoken in the same vein. The job may have to be done, but it is certainly not from any "inbred desire for war". Nor was it in my experience in World War Two.

Professor Lynn makes no mention of the innate drive which leads us to support, so well, international appeals and charities nor the chivalrous behaviour we commonly show, even towards enemies. And what about the instinctive response we make in rescue operations?

Would it not be fair to say that we have now, whenever else, "an inbred desire for peace and goodwill"?

Yours faithfully,  
BILL BELLARS,  
3 Chadwick Close,  
Northfleet, Kent,  
February 3.

From Mr James Dunnett

Sir, Richard Lynn's argument regarding the likely evolutionary success of warlike tribes as against peaceable tribes is surely simplistic. What if the members of the warlike tribe, encouraged to be warlike, start fighting among themselves?

In such a situation the peaceable tribe, with its greater social cohesion, would be at a distinct advantage. In addition, the peaceable tribe might have time and energy to study the sciences, and hence to master the sophisticated technologies involved in warfare today. Again the studious types would be at an advantage over the warlike.

If Professor Lynn's theory were correct, the warlike Scottish Highlanders should be the dominant force in this country today. But historically they were as prone to fighting one another in clan warfare as to fighting others. Their success was usually expressed in terms of acquiring land or business in the more comfortable lowland areas, in the process acquiring a less warlike outlook.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES DUNNETT,  
142 Barnaby Road, N1,  
February 4.

## Careless talk

From Lady Fieldhouse

Sir, I read with interest Mr David Sinclair's letter of January 31. My husband was the commander-in-chief of the Falklands campaign, and I can assure Mr Sinclair that during that war the slogan "Careless talk costs lives" was not just a meaningless pronouncement tossed out by a handful of military blimps, but a very real warning against the constant "second-guessing" churned out through the media by so-called "experts".

I remember very well switching on the radio very early one morning and hearing an idiotic gentleman "surmising" where the invasion to recover the islands might take place. Unfortunately, he had hit the nail on

the head, to the utter and impotent fury of my husband, who was powerless to do anything about it then.

On a subsequent occasion, when once again the "second guessers" had had a field day, Colonel H. Jones was furious to think that the lives of his men were being threatened by the accurate predictions of the media "experts", combined with their careless talk. Sadly, as we know, he lost his own life.

I believe that we at home should just keep quiet and, for the sake of the brave men and women who are serving in the Gulf, encourage others here to do the same.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET E. FIELDHOUSE,  
Royal Overseas League,  
Overseas House,  
Park Place, St James's Street, SW1.

Both loyalties drive us to the same conclusions. This war must stop and a peaceful solution be sought. Such a solution is, I am sure, achievable so long as the US political will exists.

Yours faithfully,  
WALEED AHMAD,  
54 Arden Street, Gillingham, Kent,  
February 10.

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Mr Peter Ryan (February 2) has unfortunately got it all wrong. The Islamic months begin with the new moon, not the full moon. He has none the less calculated correctly that Ramadan starts this year in mid-March, but this is not the month of the *haji*, as Mr Ryan suggests, but the month of fasting.

The *haji* takes place during the lunar month of Dhu al-Hijjah, which begins two lunar months after Ramadan ends.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KILBRACKEN,  
House of Lords.

## Muslims and war

From Mr Waleed Ahmad

Sir, Ever since the beginning of hostilities in the Gulf, the issue of the loyalty of British Muslims has been raised repeatedly.

As a British Muslim myself and one who is actively involved in the Muslim community, may I point out that, contrary to the media image, Islam is a religion of responsibility and places loyalty to one's country at a high level. It is true that Muslims here have dual loyalties (one to this country and the other to their fellow believers), but these are by no means conflicting loyalties.

As people who love this country, we do not wish to participate in an unjust war that will bring it resentment and ill feeling from many Muslim nations for generations to come. Equally, because of the loyalty to our fellow believers, we suffer more than many other Britons when we learn of the savage bombings of Iraqi cities.

Both loyalties drive us to the same conclusions. This war must stop and a peaceful solution be sought. Such a solution is, I am sure, achievable so long as the US political will exists.

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Yours faithfully,  
JOHN KILBRACKEN,  
House of Lords.

## Christiania experiment

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, Russell Vallance (February 6) doubts that the homeless and rootless in this country would move voluntarily to a large site in the UK. If one were to be established on the model of the squatted Christiania army camp in Copenhagen, Christiania, however, has no problem in attracting "disorientated young people" from all over Europe.

The essential seems to be to attract a pioneer core group of able "alternative life-style" people who feel that they control the site and who then can cope in a spirited and non-patronising way with a small proportion of residents with special needs. Unfortunately I cannot see the UK authorities initiating the tolerance of the Danes and turning a blind eye to a mass-scale squat.

Such a scheme might just work here if a three-month "free festival site" were established one summer, perhaps with an artistic, musical and "New Age" theme, which would allow a group of potential permanent settlers to emerge, to discuss their plans together and to manage

the site on the basis that, if all were going well, licence to continue would be granted at three-monthly intervals. Charitable organisations might then want to maintain tents and mobile homes on site for those unable to organise their own.

Back in 1978, with assistance from the Dartington Hall Trust, I helped found an Association for the Development of Craft Villages, with the aim of starting a UK Christiania. Despite approaching every county council planning department, we have been unable to date to find an authority prepared to help develop a disused army camp or similar site for this risky but worthwhile experiment.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS ALBERY  
(Chairman),  
The Institute for Social Inventions,  
20 Heber Road, NW2,  
February 6.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

## Drawing the line in modern art

From Sir Christopher Pinsten

Sir, It must be a red-letter day when *The Times* devotes a leader (February 5) to the teaching of drawing from nature. When, over 50 years ago, Coldstream, Rogers and Pasmore started their school of drawing and painting in the Euston Road they were well aware of some of the inanities of fashion attending contemporary art which you treat so polemically.

After the war these artists returned to teaching drawing and painting from nature and, as thousands of ex-students could testify, the fundamental importance of this has continued to be upheld by various teachers at the Slade, Camberwell, the Royal Academy, Chelsea, Byam Shaw and many other schools. In these 50 years as a whole I think only a minority of students at such schools has been totally deluded by such a "doctrine of Modernism" as you exemplify.

The empty nonsense you rightly deplore has mushroomed chiefly for other reasons. What, for instance, is wrong with us that we should be assumed to be unable to appreciate a good piece of crazy paving without it occupying a large section of the Tate Gallery?

I hope such a change of fashion as you herald will still not prevent students from copying a Braque or mastering Le Corbusier's system of proportion.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PINSTEN,  
The Chestnuts, Castle Hill,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
February 5.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas

Sir, Your third leader, heralding the dawning demise of Modernism in the arts, avers: "Architects are once again designing classical orders."

Exactly. That is the trouble. In spite of Palladio's four books of architecture, Gibbs's *The Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture*, and Banister Fletcher's history of architecture, the modern perpetrators are inventing their own orders, without any sense of shame — bulging entasis on stumpy Tuscan columns, dwarf Greek doric columns minus trachelion and anulets. All one can do is to avert one's gaze with a shudder.

I cannot recall any "modern" classical building at which one may gaze with admiration and pleasure. "In all is wanting that harmonious simplicity which speaks a genius", as Sir Robert Walpole put it.

Yours respectfully,  
BERNARD KAUKAS,  
Savage Club,  
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.

From Mr Nicholas Jenkins

Sir, The omission of drawing from the Royal College of Art's curriculum may well account for the lamentable lack of visual substance evidenced by the recent crop of classical heads, swooping birds and mythical figures which represent British industry in the guise of logotypes. Perhaps things will now improve.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS JENKINS  
(Corporate design director),  
The Jenkins Group,  
9 Tufon Street, SW1.

## Venues for Olympics

From Mr Michael Dale

Sir, I have two ideas for future venues for the Olympics. First, the national bid, which would allow small countries — like Scotland — to receive the games (though Scotland as such, of course, is not recognised as a nation by the International Olympic Committee).

Competition could thus be experienced by people whose main cities do not have a hope of financing the Olympics but whose countries would do a coherent job. In this post-Cold War age, they have the right to be considered part of an emerging world where super-powers are less dominating.

The second is the idea of a "global" Olympics — something that we virtually have via television already. The "main city" would host the athletics; more flexible sports such as gymnastics, weight-lifting and boxing could take place anywhere in the world where there was a suitable complex. Countries could thus build up their hosting involvement over many olympiads.

A disadvantage might be that the athletes could not all live together; but cities are already overstretched in this respect.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL DALE,  
4 Kirklee Circus, Glasgow G12,  
February 1.

## Dinner for three

From Mr Martin Gilbert

Sir, With reference to your [Diary] report (February 5) of the proposed plaque to Ho Chi Minh on the site of the old Carlton Hotel, it is interesting to note that he was working there (as a vegetable cook) on the night Germany invaded France in August 1914.

Among the diners at the hotel that night were Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George; no doubt the young Vietnamese helped prepare their sprouts and potatoes.

Perhaps any anger at the thought of honouring Ho Chi Minh could be assuaged if Churchill and Lloyd George were added to the commemorative plaque.

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN GILBERT,  
Merton College, Oxford,  
February 5.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 10: Mr. Robin Hampstead was received by The Queen when Her Majesty decorated him with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).  
Mr. Walter Gimpel was received by The Queen when Her Majesty decorated him with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver) Honorary.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: The Prince Edward this evening attended the St John Ambulance Valentine Ball

## Birthdays today

Sir John Arbuthnot, former MP, 79; Sir Ronald Arculus, former diplomat, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Burnett, 65; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Berger, 66; Lord Bonham-Carter, 69; Professor Marilyn Butler, professor of English Literature, 54; Sir Alec Cairncross, chancellor of Glasgow University, 80; Mr. C.H. Dearnley, organist, 61; Sir Richard Dobson, former chairman, BAT Industries, 77; Mr. Patrick Leigh Fermor, author, 76; Sir Archibald Forbes, chairman, Esso UK, 63; Sir Vivian

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** William Fox Talbot, pioneer of photography, Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, 1800; Thomas Alva Edison, inventor, Milan, Ohio, 1847.

**DEATHS:** William Shenstone, poet and landscape gardener, Halesowen, Shropshire, 1763; Lazzaro Spallanzani, caricaturist and painter, Valmondais, France, 1879; Sir Charles Parsons, inventor of the steam turbine, Kingston, Jamaica, 1931; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, novelist, historian and governor-general of Canada, 1935-40; Montreal, 1940; Sergey Eisenstein, film director, Moscow, 1948; Ernest Jones, psychoanalyst, 1958.

The foundation of London University, 1826. At Lourdes,

## Nature notes

In most years, blackbirds would be singing now, but in the snow they only call with a plaintive clucking note. They fly down readily when bread is thrown for them, but even then they will sometimes fight each other, and lose their chance of food to another bird. Many of the immigrant blackbirds that came here in the autumn from Germany and Poland have now moved on to Ireland. Fieldfares appeared in the London parks at the beginning of the cold spell, but they too, like skylarks and chaffinches, have flocked westwards. Tawny owls have come into towns in the hope of picking up roosting sparrows; lappings have left the fields for the coast.

Insect-feeders in the tree

## £45,000 for salt cellars found by television

By JOHN SHAW

A SET of four silver gilt salt cellars discovered on the *Antiques Road Show* are likely to fetch £45,000 at Sotheby's in London this month.

The owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, took one of the salts to show experts when BBC Television was recording the programme at Salisbury cathedral in July last year, because he inherited them from his father six years ago and did not know what they were. The four had been kept in a plastic bag at the back of a bedroom cupboard.

Brand Inglis, the dealer who was acting silver expert on the programme, sent the owner home to fetch the other three before filming began after he recognised them as carrying the mark of Paul Storr (1771-1844) the leading English Regency silversmith. The salts, each four-and-three-quarter inches long, show merman towing their shells through stylised waves.

They are thought to have been designed and modelled by William Theod. RA (1764-1817), the painter and sculptor who at one time worked for silversmiths Rundell, Bridge & Rundell. The basic design was used many times, but never more harmoniously than between 1811-13.

The four salts were from that period, and carry an estimate of £35,000-£45,000. They will appear in Sotheby's silver sale on February 28.

The owner's father had been a chauffeur to a City businessman, and it is thought he might have acquired them on a trip to the Continent or at a house sale after World War II. A private buyer has paid about £750,000 for a silver gilt soup tureen by Jean-Baptiste Claude Odier, Paris 1819, at the four-day International Silver and Jewellery Fair at the Park Lane hotel, London, which closes tonight.

The sale, by E & C.T. Koopman, was a talking point among dealers but the firm declined to give further details about the purchaser. The tureen bore the arms of Francois-Xavier Brancich (1731-1813), a Polish count, and

at the Dorchester Hotel, London W1. Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK**  
February 10: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy were present at a Reception held this afternoon by the Polish House (SOE Polish Section) at the Polish Social and Cultural Centre, 240 King Street, London W4.

France. Bernadette Soubirous stated that a vision of the Virgin Mary had appeared before her, 1858. The Lateran Treaty established an independent Vatican City, 1929.

## Appointments

Cwilyn Jones, MP for Cardiff North, to be Parliamentary Private Secretary to Roger Freeman, Minister of State for Transport.

Flora Goldhill of the Department of Health to be first chief executive of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

## Today's royal engagement

The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit HM Naval Base Devonport at 11.10.

## OBITUARIES

## EVAN LUARD

David Evan Trant Luard, former diplomat, Labour MP and Foreign Office minister, died on February 8, aged 64. He was born on October 31, 1926.

EVAN Luard resigned from the Foreign Office because of Suez in 1956 and from the Labour party because of its general drift in the late 1970s. One resignation ended a promising career as a diplomat and another effectively ended his career as a politician, but he regretted neither. He was a very principled man.

Luard's father was a Royal Marine colonel who won the DSO with Allenby in Palestine and Luard himself proved to be brave, particularly in fighting years of illness. He was educated at Felsted and Cambridge where he gained a first in modern languages at King's. After going down he decided that his conventional education needed to be broadened so he spent a year as a worker in a London factory. Accepted by the Foreign Office he served in Hong Kong and in Peking, where he extended his lifelong interest in China. He was incensed by British policy during the Suez affair and resigned from the service in protest.

He soon found a home in Oxford where his knowledge of foreign affairs was instrumental in gaining him a fellowship at St Antony's. His Labour sympathies, which could not be expressed publicly while he was in the foreign service, now became apparent and he served on Oxford city council before being chosen to fight the Oxford seat for his party. This involved a duel lasting more than a decade with the Tory candidate, C.M. Woodhouse, whose life, like Luard's, possessed strands linking diplomacy, politics and academia.

Woodhouse, the sitting MP, held his seat in 1964 from Luard's first challenge, but Luard took it from him in 1966. Woodhouse was back in 1970 and survived by 821



votes in the first election of 1974, only to lose it to Luard by 1,036 in the second. This was the last time the two fought, for Luard lost to a rising young Tory, John Patten, in 1979. By 1983 Luard was in the SDP and he lost the new Oxford West and Abingdon seat easily to Patten, though Labour was pushed into third place. In the House Luard was regarded as a serious politician and his knowledge of foreign affairs was put to good use by his party. Harold Wilson appointed him parliamentary under secretary to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1969 and

threw the Labour defeat of 1970 meant the temporary end of his Westminster career. He was speedily reappointed to the FCO on Labour's return to power and held the post throughout the 1976-9 Wilson-Callaghan governments. With his 1979 defeat he returned to Oxford and St Antony's but also did considerable work for Oxfam, particularly in missions abroad.

He was always a prolific writer, both when he was in the Commons and outside. His articles appeared in all the major journals of his speciality such as foreign affairs, foreign policy and world af-

fairs. He had been a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations and later he was an active member of the committee on restructuring the UN's economic and social activities, and his continuing interest in the organisation was reflected in his academic journalism and his books. He wrote a definitive two-volume history of the United Nations but its projected third volume will now never be written.

Disarmament and the evolution of international organisations provided subjects for other books. Another abiding interest, China, was reflected in his part authorship of *The Economic Development of Communist China*, produced soon after his resignation from the Foreign Office, while his *Britain and China*, published in 1962, attracted considerable interest at the time for the new information which it provided.

The work which summed up so much of his beliefs, *Socialism Without the State*, expressing all his mistrust of bureaucracy, had an excellent reception when it appeared in 1979 but his hopes of moderating what he considered were Labour's excesses during that period gradually disappeared, and when the SDP was formed he joined it with alacrity and hope. He belonged to the Roy Jenkins-Shirley Williams wing of the party, however, and followed them into the Liberal Democrats rather than staying with David Owen. A new edition of *Socialism Without the State* is about to be produced with a new foreword, taking into account recent developments in eastern Europe.

Luard had an operation to remove his larynx some time ago but he overcame this handicap with characteristic fortitude and good humour and his new voice, although restricting his many public activities, was a welcome feature at social gatherings at St Antony's. He was unmarried.

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## MICHAEL DOWDING

Michael Frederick Dowding, CBE, chairman of Michael Dowding Associates and former director of Davy Corporation, died on February 8, aged 72. He was born on November 19, 1918.

MICHAEL Dowding was one of Europe's leading experts in rolling mill technology, and played a major part in the regeneration of the British steel plant industry after the second world war. He published several papers on the subject for the Iron and Steel Institute (now the Institute of Metals), of which he was vice-president in 1965.

After Westminster School, Dowding read engineering at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he took his MA. His career was interrupted by the second world war, when he joined the 81st Field Regiment of the 53rd Welsh Division, the Royal Artillery, serving in The Netherlands and Normandy. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1945 and rose to the rank of major, becoming the regiment's adjutant.

Dowding joined Davy & United Engineering in Sheffield in 1946, and married Rosemary Hastings the following year. He became a chartered engineer and a fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. At Davy, however, he concentrated on the sales side of the business.

Britain was one of many countries investing in the iron and steel industry, and Dowding travelled the world on Davy's behalf, becoming

managing director of the company from 1961 to 1964. When Davy merged with Powergas and Ashmore to form Davy Ashmore, Dowding was made chairman of Davy Ashmore International. He was a director of the parent company, then known as Davy Ashmore (now Davy Corporation), for ten years until 1972. He left, at the age of 53, as part of wide-ranging management changes following losses incurred on an oil rig contract. Dowding's continuing value to the group, however, was marked by the fact that he acted as a consultant to Davy for five years. He was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Lion, 1st Class, in 1969 for his contribution to the advancement of the Finnish steel industry. He was appointed CBE four years later, in recognition of his export achievements.

Dowding also advised N.M. Rothschild, the merchant bank, on engineering matters before setting up his own firm of consulting engineers, Michael Dowding Associates. In 1978 he became president of the Metals Society.

He will be remembered as an ebullient and sociable man who put a high priority on personal relations. He was a keen fisherman and enjoyed shooting. His friends particularly remember his strolling parties in the Scottish highlands, but he devoted his retirement years to painting landscapes.

He is survived by his widow, a son and two daughters.

## SIR MONTY FINNISTON

Professor Duncan Timms writes:

IN YOUR obituary of Sir Monty Finnieston (February 5) you mention the ten years he spent as Chancellor of Stirling University. Among the great variety of public offices carried out by Sir Monty, his duties at Stirling were perhaps more symbolic than most. He carried them out, however, in a distinctive and committed

fashion and earned the undying admiration and affection of students and staff by the way in which he cared for their future.

Ceremonies for the conferment of degrees always had to make allowances for the way in which Sir Monty would ask questions of every graduate presented to him. His memory for what people said was prodigious and associated with a genuine concern for their welfare.

Sir Monty shared with the first chancellor of the university, Lionel Robbins, a passionate belief in the importance of higher education for the progress of society. His efforts on behalf of engineering were paralleled in other more general areas of the "applied arts".

He was especially involved with efforts to improve the relations between higher education and the world of business and played a major role in the development of the Scottish Enterprise Foundation and its offshoot, Graduate Enterprise. Reflecting the Scottish perspective, he had little time for the artificial boundaries which academics sometimes erect for protection and was a great believer in the expansion of opportunities and in the indivisibility of knowledge.

His appetite for new information and for new crusades was immense and infectious; the world of higher education as well as the world of affairs will sorely miss his example.

## JOHN HARGREAVES

John Hargreaves, the British baritone, died on February 5, aged 80. He was born at Colne, Lancashire, on March 10, 1910.

JOHN Hargreaves was one of the stalwarts of the Sadler's Wells Opera company both before and after the second world war. His voice was a firm silvery baritone, not a large instrument but one that its owner used with distinction to project words and character.

He had a handsome presence on stage and so scored in roles requiring good looks such as Don Giovanni, Count Almaviva and Eugene Onegin, but he was just as successful in characterising the distorted features and personality of Tonio in *Pagliacci*. Perhaps he became best known to a wider public as the partner of the soprano Janet Hamilton-Smith with whom he gave many concerts of popular music in public and on the radio.

Hargreaves studied with Frederic Austin at the Royal Academy of Music. He made his Sadler's Wells debut as early as 1936, taking the role

of the Sergeant in Vaughan Williams' ballad opera *Hugh the Drover*. He soon established himself as an indispensable member of the company singing, before the second world war, such roles as Valentine, Schumann, Yamadori, Mozart's Rossini's Figaro, and Amonasro. During the war he took the part of Macheath in *The Beggar's Opera* with the company, then transferred to the New Theatre, and added Papageno, Rigoletto and Marcello to his repertoire.

From 1945 to 1951 he took time off from opera to appear in musicals, most notably in more than 1,000 performances of *The Song of Norway* (1946), an idealised life of the composer Grieg, who was played by Hargreaves. It was at this time that he formed his long partnership with Hamilton-Smith, who took the role of Louise in the same musical.

He returned to Sadler's Wells in 1951, making his re-entry into opera as Luna in *Il trovatore*, indicative of a move to heavier roles, one of which was his impressive Onegin in

Tchaikovsky's opera. He also appeared as Scarpia, and was a notable Zurga in the company's first staging of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*. In 1957 he created the role of Strickland in John Gardner's *The Moon and Sixpence*.

Among his other parts at this time were Pasco in a revival of Ethel Smyth's drama *The Wreckers* and the title role in Weinberger's *Schwanda the Bagpiper*. In the 1960s his career eased off and he was appointed Sadler's Wells's first vocal consultant, a job he did with great industry and relish. In this post and as a private teacher he passed on his advice and experience on singing and stagecraft to a younger generation. He continued to teach almost to the end of his life.

Hargreaves made a few 78rpm records in the early post-war era. They are valuable mementoes of his art. Most welcome among them is Prince Igor's Monologue and the Prologue from *Pagliacci*, which represented him in EMI's "Stars of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells" album.



John Hargreaves as Rigoletto

## Dr Graham Leonard

## Reflections on a great city

ONE characteristic of Holy Scripture is its intense realism about human life and the human predicament. Proclaiming a Gospel of hope and glory it recognises the full the sins, frailties and tragedies of mankind. The contrast is particularly evident in what Scripture says about the city. The purpose of God for mankind is portrayed as to be achieved in the coming of the City of God. At the same time, the city is recognised as the sphere in which that which is evil, oppressive and depraved in human life can find its most intense expression. Within a city, there are to be found the highest achievements of man's creativity, imagination, co-operation, and industry, existing side by side with the results of man's self-centredness and sheer wickedness.

The Church of God, by its nature, is concerned with both time and with eternity. This truth is expressed in Scripture by the contrast between the heavenly city which is not to come merely by human achievement with the passage of time. The holy City "whose builder and maker is God" is to come by His action when He chooses. Nevertheless, the world is the sphere in which those members of the Church who are still on earth have to operate and prepare for the coming of the City of God. One of the problems which Christians face is that this world and the world to come are often seen and presented as opposites, instead of being seen as complementary. As a result, there are those who, concentrating on the world to come, put the emphasis on the individual and on personal salvation. On the other hand, there are those who, concentrating on the problems of the world, give the impression that the Church, through using religious language and religious cate-

gories, is essentially an agency for social action. The resulting conflict is one which is particularly acute for anyone who has to exercise pastoral care within a great city like London. If he speaks of the need for personal devotion, he will be accused of neglecting the social problems, which can so easily engender a sense of impotence and frustration, and of promoting an escapist and otherworldly religion. If he speaks of the need to cope with those problems and of the need for reform of oppressive structures, he will very likely be accused of proclaiming a social gospel, and of confusing the Gospel with the programme of a political party. To some extent, such a situation is inevitable. If he seeks to keep a finely-adjusted balance between the two whenever he speaks, what he says and the policies he advocates will have no cutting edge. There must be times when he speaks of the need for personal religion, and times when he speaks of the need for social action. What matters is whether his overall concern is seen to embrace both and whether he insists that "here we have no lasting city", the ultimate purpose of all human life being found in eternity. He must be seen to take account of the fact that all social policies are put into effect by individuals, who, whatever their gifts and abilities, are like himself, fallible and sinful and in need of that redemption which no system or administration can provide. At the same time, he must recognise that individuals live only as members of society within its structures which can be oppressive as well as supportive. "No man is an island, entire of itself".

He who is called to be a chief pastor in a great city has to exercise his Ministry in two ways. He must proclaim, in season

and out of season, that the city exists under the judgment of God. If he does not do so, what he says or does will be judged, not by the declared purpose and will of God for men and women, but by its apparent usefulness to society on purely human terms. When that happens, the Gospel is misunderstood and misused. He must try to speak of judgment and grace positively and creatively in ways which make clear how the potential of human beings and of human society to be fulfilled. Whilst it is right and necessary for him to speak of ideals, he must also, particularly in seizing the opportunities provided for influencing government policy, be concerned to advocate what is politically possible and capable of being implemented by legislation.

At the same time by his ministry of Word and Sacrament and by his pastoral care, he must ceaselessly proclaim the Gospel and enable Christian men and women to grow in obedience to God and thereby in love for Him and for their neighbours. Thus they can become more effective agents of God's purpose for the city in this world and become the kind of people who can share in the life of the Holy City which is to come.

As I hand over my pastoral charge, I give thanks for the growing number of Christians who, in this great city, by living the Gospel, each in his or her own way, whether in family, work or leisure, are bringing hope where there is despair, love where there is bitterness or hatred, compassion where there is callousness, truth where there is falsehood. For them and for their pastors I shall continue to pray.

The author retires this year as Bishop of London.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. Boothby and Miss C. Cronin. The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Guy Boothby, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kevin Cronin, of Litchborough, Northamptonshire.

Mr J.H. Counsell and Miss L.M. Rodway. The engagement is announced between James Henry, elder son of Mr H. Counsell, of Lymington, Somerset, and Dr P. Counsell, of Winton, Avon, and Lisa Maria, younger daughter of Mrs B. Rodway, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, and the late Mr M. Rodway.

Mr R. Gray and Miss H. Mair. The engagement is announced between Roderick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.M. Gray, of Cranford, Edinburgh, and Heather, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M.L. Mair, of Hamilton, Bermuda. The wedding will take place on October 12, in Bermuda.

Mr A. Radcliffe and Miss L.A. Notaras. The engagement is announced between Ashton Radcliffe, Coldstream Guards, elder son of Mr Simon Radcliffe, of Forest Row, Sussex, and Mrs Gordon Smyth, of Plumpton, Sussex, and Lorna Anthea, youngest daughter of Mr Mitchell Notaras, of St Johns Wood, London, and Dr Lorna McPhail, of Clatby, Perthshire.

Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Whitman and Miss B.J. Bowie. The engagement is announced between John William, son of Mr and Mrs George Whitman, of Alameda, California, and Barbara Jean, daughter of Mrs Robert Gerald Bowie, of Rochester, New York, and of the late Mr Bowie.

Mr J.F.K. Neill and Miss L. Mullen. The marriage took place on Saturday at St George's, Hanover Square, of Mr Jonathan Neill, son of Sir Patrick Neill, QC, and Lady Neill, of All Souls College, Oxford, to Miss Lucy Mullen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Mullen, of McMahon's Point, Sydney. The Rev W.M. Atkins officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Sophie Mullen. Mr Mark Hawtin and Mrs Martin Mills were best men. A reception was held at Gray's Inn.

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## Marriages

Sir Philip Beck and Mrs B. Cockrell. The marriage took place quietly in London, on February 7, between Philip Beck and Bridget Cockrell (née Heathcoat-Amory).

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Me Pog,  
you  
Tootsie

## A timely look at the psychology of pet names

saw the destruction they brought to our homes and our families, the more we came to hate them," she says. Later, as she got to know kind Americans, not just brutal ones, and eventually married one, she came to see the race as "barbarian saints", a people with a civilising mission who seemed bent on destruction.

*'Look into  
the heart of  
one you once  
called  
enemy'*

...into  
...art of  
...u once  
...led  
...my'

Since 1986, when she returned to find her family in Da Nang, Ms Hayslip has led seven groups of war veterans back to the jungles of central Vietnam and, amid the suspicion of both the American and Vietnamese authorities, has organised a US-financed health clinic and a rehabilitation centre there. "I'm in between two worlds. I'm Vietnamese and American," Ying and Yang. Call it what you will," she says.

Now 41 years old, she has spent three decades in each country. In Vietnam she learned American English, first to learn a few basic phrases and then to become a bursary on both sides. FBI officers repeatedly asked her to spy on her trips, and in the Vietnamese-American community she is widely suspected of being a communist.

Saigon. Bon, then a government official, has since left his job to run his sister's centre at China Beach, near Da Nang. Ms Hayslip, whose name came from her second American husband, is especially upset by the need to obtain permission from the State Department for every trip, required because Washington still bans any business with Vietnam. "When you dropped all those bombs and the troops jumped out of the helicopter and burnt down all our houses, you didn't ask us for a licence to do that."

But she avoids taking sides in her book, and beyond the horror emerges a tale of hope. When she was a child it was only natural that everyone in the village of Ky La took the side of the Vietcong, who were fighting against a corrupt, US-financed government in the South. Yet her family was caught in the middle, with one sister married to a Southern police official and brother Bon long departed to Hanoi. Her youngest brother left to join the Vietcong.

Since, normally, nobody was released from that prison, she was then tried as a traitor by a Vietcong "people's court" and sentenced to be shot. She was then aged 17. Her executioners took her to her "grave," but instead of killing her, raped her. Her father helped her escape to Saigon with her mother, but later took his own life. The village was partially razed by the Americans, while the Vietcong, for their part, began to exhibit their own cruelty, losing much support.

In Saigon, still on the Vietcong death list, she gave birth to her son, Hien, and was hired, for pay, by her employer in the house where she and her mother worked as maids. Cast out, she sold black

and plenty," but also of some emptiness, she says. Vietnam has little, not much freedom and only grinding poverty, yet there is a beauty of life there unknown to Americans. "You don't have a nice car there, but what you have is a whole world. You look up in the sky and you have open space. Beautiful landscape all around you," she says. "I want to tell you." Her mission is to "get the Americans to show their compassion, their good side and also to get the Vietnamese to show respect for foreigners. They didn't see the Americans as their enemy. The Americans saw the Vietnamese as their enemy. It's so funny. The Americans are making the same mistakes now," she says, breaking down easily into tears. "Another country is being torn apart in the interests of being 'saved' by the Americans. She has told her sons that they should resist any military draft if one is instituted and she practices this on the receiving end in Iraq. "I just pray and hope that children there will survive so they can tell their story."

At least these names are paraded publicly only once a year. Other serious, sober adults are permanently known to their families and friends by such nicknames as Sunny, Pog, Stinker, Woofie, Pud, Binky, Beanpole or Buzz-Lovers call each other by pet names to stake their claim—but what is the purpose of the nicknames?

The more tightly knit the family or community, he says, the more likely pet names are to flourish — and to stick to the individual forever. Is this why Virginia Woolf was known to her family as “the goat, Billy, and Sparrow” while her sister, Vanessa, answered to “The Dolphin”?

There are five basic principles for the origination of nicknames, Dr Harris says. "They are formed by rhymes, contractions, verbal analogues, suffix addition or by the child's earlier attempts to pronounce names. In middle and upper-class homes, names are often contracted or altered as soon as the child is born, but 'in working-class families every attempt is made by the parents to continue calling the child by its full birth name.'

Dr. Harre's real name is Romano. "With a name like that, which was the name of Mussolini's younger brother, I had many nicknames at boarding school. But the shortened version stuck so that now it's the only one I ever use."

**LIZ HODGKINSON**  
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**The kiss-and-tell  
story of  
advertising men  
and their view of  
matrimony**

**T**he magazine *Options*, seeking a head-turning gimmick for its day-before-St Valentine's Day release this month, conceived the idea of an advertisement for marriage. Not for a bevy of beautiful but heavy-headed hackettes seeking saue, solvent ski instructors — but for the institution itself. What did the results reveal about the advertising world's view of marriage? About men-advertising's view of marriage? Of the 14 people who worked on the brief, all were male. How did they approach the campaign?

Not one of the seven teams put forward a straightforward romantic image. "No one," says Andrew Tozer, from Tory Hodges and Partners, "wants a spread from *Bris* magazine." Why not? "Because," says Will Awdry, of Barile, Bogle, Hegarty, "people believe in a harsher reality."

"We tried to take on that cynicism," says BMP DDB Needham's Alasdair Graham, who, along with his art director, is pictured as a moody, predatory bachelor. "Deep down we all have a romantic strain, but you have to prod

quite hard to get to it." Their prodding device was to frame a shot of a sensual kiss with copy reading: "Nothing makes your heart beat faster than kissing a married man. A husband makes a better lover."

Bartle, Bogle, Hegarty also focused on a kiss — between two anonymous men. The

headline reads: "If you want to know why you should get married ask a couple who can't." It is a striking picture, with punchy copy. Some core leagues fell that because it says so well as an advocacy for gay rights it would confuse the audience. For heterosexuals, it seems to be saying you should because you can't in the same way that you should finish what is on your plate because there are starving babies in Africa. "We wanted to say that marriage is a great privilege and that the pivotal point is love," Mr. Wadley says. "Because the average Londoner receives something like 2,300 messages a day, we wanted a graphic

**Kiss of life: the work of BMP DDB Needham (left) and Bartle, Bogle, Hegarty**

image that was also contemporary and would show that marriage has moved on."

Another graphic image, but one showing marriage very much standing still, was produced by Tony Hodges and Partners. Under a gritty black-and-white photo of a frightened child being bullied reads the copy: "Get married for your child's sake. Because kids can be bastards. Especially when they find a real one." According to figures compiled by Relate, one in four children is born outside marriage, but 60 per cent of these children are born within stable relationships.

**M**r Tozer says he did not get married for children. "I got married because I loved her. The poster will upset a good many of my friends who are unmarried with kids. It is, though, a powerful ad and it raises the issue."

The two youngest, unmarried men, graduate trainee account managers at Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, came up with a cutesy cartoon strip of a funny-looking man saying "I love you" to various funny-looking women and then, in bridal clothes, with the winner. The caption reads: "When he says 'I do,' he does." It seems to be saying, "If you really loved me, you'd go the whole way. If you really loved me, you'd marry me."

Is this a cynical manipulation of male guilt and female vulnerability? Chris Herd is anxious to explain that it is not. "We both felt that marriage was about making the ultimate commitment to one

person. Everyone loves a number of people in their lives, but they don't marry them all. From a bloke's perspective, it makes me think about what I have said in the past."

The McCann-Erikson team also approached the brief by emphasizing that marriage was a final and special step. Both married men, they managed to create a visually effective image. On the back of a "going away" car, decorated with balloons, bottles and party streamers, reads the message: "Just co-habiting. 'Not quite the same is it?' the copy says.

Ogilvy and Mather's similarly motivated but less witty and more wordy poster pictures the Queen saying: "My live-in lover and I..." "We decided to knock the opposition," says Jerry Gallaher, a co-habitee of seven years, "because we couldn't think of any unarguable reason why."

**Saatchi & Saatchi believes it.**

found an indisputable reason. Its spook of the doctor's old waiting-room poster reads: "If it's so much trouble and strife, why come married people here five years long?" It makes perfect sense," says David Hieatt. "Married people feel more secure, they eat better and they share their troubles."

According to the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, the statement also holds true partly because people in poor health do not generally get married. And, of course, the same benefits apply to those who live together, unhitched and childless. But Mr. Hieatt seems convinced by his own argument. He says that the project has persuaded him to countenance an even more torrid, committed relationship than that between copy writer and art director, one where as a man can be and his chosen partner be able to work on each other's nerves.

Developed by a dentist, Dentemp is the first temporary filling mix for emergency home use. Now, when you lose a filling and can't get to your dentist immediately, you can actually replace a lost filling in your own home in just minutes. What's more, Dentemp can also be used to temporarily cement loose crowns or inlays. So you can avoid unnecessary pain and discomfort. Dentemp is an easy-to-use formula containing the same ingredients your own dentist might use for temporary fillings. It soothes irritated nerve endings. Calms pain. Sets up a temporary seal to help protect the cavity from heat or cold. No medicine chest should be without Dentemp. Use New Dentemp as directed.

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# Slow train comes after all

**ROCK**  
**Bob Dylan**  
**Hammersmith Odeon**

BOB Dylan cuts a lonely figure in 1991. A few months shy of his fiftieth birthday he seems more desperate than ever to clamber down from the pedestal on which he has been placed. To this end he dashes off albums like *Under the Red Sky* with undistinguished riffs and kindergarten rhymes. He tours incessantly, admirably favouring theatres over arenas and playing "secondary circuit" cities in America, yet giving the impression that he could not care less about maintaining his performing standards, let alone how many tickets or records he sells.

He gives virtually no interviews and forbids photographers to attend his shows, yet he is still the subject of a steady stream of books and profiles. An increasingly ramshackle man of mystery, he is an institution at odds with the modern world. A place is still reserved for him at the top table, but he only seems able to function in splendid limbo on the sidelines of rock.

On this tour he has been breaking in a new backing group. The musicians who took the stage at Hammersmith were Tony Carr (bass), Cesar Diaz (rhythm guitar), John Jackson (lead guitar) and Ian Wallace (drums), a band of no discernible pedigree, unless you count Wallace's stint with progressive rockers King Crimson in the early Seventies.

Dylan wore a semi-acoustic guitar, and a buttoned tartan jacket which gave the impression

that he was carrying concealed weight around the midriff. His posture was crouched and his movements doddery, especially when wrestling with his harmonica cage. His hair was cut back to a "Freewheelin'" length and every so often he ran one or two hands through it as if working up a shampoo lather.

They began with "You Go Your Way and I'll Go Mine", which was clearly the first chance the engineer on the mixing desk had been given to sort out the volume levels. As with most of the material, it was reworked into a kind of garage-band rock-swing style.

Dylan's voice had a harsher timbre than of yore, and his delivery of "Lay Lady Lay" was pure self-parody as he mumbled the words in an impossibly oblique drawl with no obvious heed for the metre of the verse or the melody of the song. A climactic rocked-up arrangement of "Masters of War" was a barely recognisable travesty of the original, the searing venom of the words lost in the muddle of approximate chord changes and unstructured guitar solos.

But after this unpromising start the show gradually began to gell. The turning point came when Garrier insisted himself with an upright bass. Wallace picked up a pair of brushes and the band embarked on a peculiarly affecting version of "Desolation Row". This was followed by a jazzy rearrangement of "It Ain't Me Babe" and then "Everything is Broken", a slinky little blues which at last allowed some of Dylan's wit to shine through. Jackson gradually revealed himself to be a handy picker, and a



Bob Dylan: an institution at odds with the modern world

sparky camaraderie developed both within the band and between the band and Dylan himself.

Despite abandoning a botched attempt at playing the piano, Dylan was clearly enjoying himself by the time he led the troupe into a finale of "In the Garden", "Like a Rolling Stone", "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Maggie's

Farm". Dylan has become a master at recasting these old songs in different frameworks, often disguising their original melodies on the way. What a wonder it would be if he could write some new ones that he was able to stand the test of live performance.

DAVID SINCLAIR

**THEATRE**  
**Young Writers' Festival**  
**Royal Court Upstairs**

PARENTS are a funny lot. The house can be burgled, a live pig can walk out of the icebox, you yourself can utter shrill cries of ontological despair, and still they sit around watching telly, mouthing platitudes, and nagging away at you for not finding a job, doing your homework, or feeding your pet rabbit. That, anyway, is the cumulative impression left by the three plays comprising this year's Young Writers' Festival at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs.

The authors' ages may vary from 10 to 25; they share a bewilderment that probably dates from the

day Eve badgered Cain to tidy his corner of the cave.

*Sally's Suspected* is by Jenny Ward and Jennie Langford, 11 and 10 respectively; a bubbling little piece in which burglars in striped vests exchange nursery wisdom ("scaredy-cats are dumbos") and the title character runs away from home rather than risk being accused of their crime. The world outside, populated as it is by pantomime horses and characters with names like Bony Boggles, has its alarming aspects but at least is a relatively guilt-free zone.

That is more than can be claimed for the world of *Happy Days Are Here Again*, a dimly oppressive blend of pub, club, job-centre and home. Its 19-year-old author, Paul Tucker, comes from Leicester, the place Stephen Poliakoff selected when he wanted

a really depressing setting for *Hitting Town* and *City Sugar*; and it seems that time has not improved the quality of Midlands life. Male or female, the characters are in for long tirades of late-adolescent ennui and angst. The writing is a bit humourless and can become sentimental, but at its best has an inventive energy that bodes well for its author's future.

Julie Everton is, however, six years older and her *Pig in a Poke* six years more mature. Dad comes home from his job in the slaughterhouse, Mum completely preoccupied with her tea and out of the bridge, interrupting their daughter's homework, steps a wounded but walking pig. This creature reappears at intervals, on one occasion dressed as a drag queen and *chanteuse*, on another transformed into a rather literal

male chauvinist pig, ready to turn to rape when seduction proves tricky.

The aim is presumably to find a capsule metaphor for childhood feelings ranging from anorexic disgust to sexual fear and fascination; and, though she sometimes gives the impression of playing with images and ideas rather than exploring them, there is no doubting Everton's dramatic imagination. She is particularly well served by James Durrell, a scatty, schoolboy, and Moya Brady, his schoolgirl pet and victim, but then the acting is strong in all three plays, which are respectively directed by Max Stafford-Clark, Philip Howard and Tamsin Oglesby. The Young Writers' Festival once again justifies itself.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

**CONCERT**  
**Prima la musica/**  
**L'Impresario**  
**Barbican**

SINCE *Amadeus* it has become de rigueur to belittle Salieri and his music when put alongside that of Mozart himself. Such a response is too often ill-considered but it is almost inevitable when this double-bill, first performed in the Oratory at Schönbrunn in February 1786, is recreated.

On that occasion, Mozart's *The Impresario* occupied the first half, and Salieri's *Prima la musica e poi le parole* (First the music and then the words) the second. Richard Hickox reversed the order of the two works for his double-bill at the City of London Sinfonia, and the better piece for the second half. For there is no gaudy fact that the Mozart is the more satisfying work in both musical and dramatic terms. Where Mozart was out in his musical dramatisation. Both works satirise prima donnas, and Gorbach Stephania's text for Mozart exploits what now smacks of sexist stereotyping, as well as trading topical allusions at length.

But when the power struggle is

expressed in musical terms, as in the Terzett, where the rival sopranos attempt to outdazzle each other while the impresario interjects helplessly, the result is electrifying. The fireworks came from Nan Christie and Elizabeth Gale, a formidable pair of contestants, who under Henk Schurt's skilful direction (both works were staged) both sang and acted their parts to the hilt. Adrian Thompson was excellent as the exasperated impresario. The text was based on Eric Blom's reduced version of 1933, with a few modern allusions thrown in.

The Salieri offers not one contest but two, with a composer and a librettist also battling it out wittily in Lionel Salter's clever translation. Jonathan Best and Richard Jackson, again under Henk Schurt's direction, were an ideal pair of lovers. Juliet Booth and Catherine Fierman as the prima donnas - one specialising in *seria*, the other in *buffa* - might have been encouraged to risk a shade more caricature, but the musical performances of all four were irreproachable. The same goes for the City of London Sinfonia, who under Hickox caught the right blend of elegance and skittishness.

BARRY MILLINGTON

**BBC SO/Davis**  
**Festival Hall**

WHEN the veteran conductor Gunter Wand withdrew from his two concerts with the BBC Symphony Orchestra this month, the first of them was taken instead by the orchestra's chief conductor, Andrew Davis (the second, this Friday, will have Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich in charge). Davis kept the programme unchanged in featuring Bruckner's Eighth Symphony as a self-contained musical epic sufficient to fill a concert.

Although deprived by weather conditions of more than a token audience in the hall (fortunately the players managed to muster their full strength, four "Wagner tubas" included), the broadcast performance on Radio 3 should have alerted listeners to a different kind of Bruckner conductor from that brought by conductors with longer association. Davis, in the first instance, was refreshingly direct in his approach, respectful but not at all reverential.

What has been aptly called "an Everest among symphonies" was scaled with confidence and considerable *elan*. Fundamen-

tally, its course was governed by rhythm and pacing. The opening movement pressed forward brightly, unhindered by the false sentiment some more famous names have wished on it, and with a rich content of tone and timbre that belied the excuses so often made on behalf of its sense of form.

The tragic spirit here was but a preliminary to striking out in different directions, as with the dynamic momentum Davis brought to the Scherzo movement before probing the heart of the symphony in the sublime Adagio. Here there was less a sense of exaltation than a poetic unfolding of reflective moments disturbed by something shadowy and disruptive, then resolved in serene acceptance of destiny.

Noel Goodwin

## NEW RELEASES

DANCES WITH WOLVES (12): Kevin Costner's epic about a man who enters the Sioux's way of life. Over-reverent, though Costner mounts his directorial debut. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).  
Shakespeare (071-530 2830) Home Video (071-530 2830) Warner (071-430 0700).

DECEMBER BRIDE (PG): In the tale of a strong-willed servant girl, bogged down by a dark atmosphere, but enlivened by Sissy Spacek. Director, Rob Marshall. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

DICTIONARY: THE MOVIE - TREASURE OF THE LOST LAMP (U): Disney cartoon featuring the voice of Mickey Mouse. Director, Bob Hathorn. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

SHORT TIME (12): Danny Coleman as a cop who believes he has a little time. Ignore the sentiment and enjoy the black comedy. Director, Gregg Champion. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

STAYING TOGETHER (12): True crime of small-town America, with a lurid script. With Sean Astin, Melinda Dillon. Director, Lian Hsu. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY (PG): Hollywood sequel to *Three Men and a Cradle* with a little girl. Director, Sydney Pollack. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

Cannons: Haymarket (071-430 1827) Oxford Street (071-430 0310).

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Gerard Philipe's masterpiece as the love-struck, headstrong Cyrano, director, Jean-Paul Rappoport. Translating Rostand's play into magnificent, awe-inspiring drama. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

THE GARDEN (12): The Passion according to Derek Jarman - a powerful, elegiac tapestry of scenes and images on death, religion and gay sex. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

THE GRIFTERS (12): Stephen Frears' glorified version of Jim Thompson's con-artists. With John Cusack, Anthony Quinn, and Anthony Quinn. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

HAWANA (12): Robert Redford as the gambler who wins a mysterious woman (Lara Flynn Boyle) in a high-stakes game. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

HOME ALONE (PG): Family hit led by Macaulay Culkin. Director, Chris Columbus. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

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one Christmas holiday. Why drag out the young actors, who are in *Home Alone* (071-530 2830) Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

MIRACLE MILE (12): Two shy lovers find romance in a city where an impending home town's arrival is a disaster. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG): Provocative, funny story of a girl who uncovers her home town's dark secrets. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (12): Charles Taylor's comedy, with a few less than the usual number of stars. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE (12): A story of a man who is accused of a crime. Cannon Home Video (071-530 2830).

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6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** begins with a live CNN report from the Gulf  
9.25 **Schools**  
12.00 **News summary**  
12.05 **All Muck and Magic?** Organic gardening series. In this episode we are shown how to make a good compost, there is expert advice on growing roses plus a visit to a garden centre to see its extensive range of products (r). (Teletext)  
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service presented by Suannah Simons.  
1.00 **Seaside Street**. Learning programme for pre-school children  
2.00 **Films: Smashing Time (1987)**. Two country girls (Lynn Redgrave, and Rita Tushingnet) go to the big city where they hope to get into the London scene and break into the big time. They meet influential men (Michael Redgrave and Ian Carmichael) and manage to get themselves in the limelight, but they find just staying at the top is harder than being at the bottom. Well-observed comedy on the Swinging London era but the slapstick comedy is not very funny, and claims at the time that the leading characters were like a female version of Laurel and Hardy are unfounded. Scripted by George Melly and directed by Desmond Davis 3.50 Adam and Eve. Animation  
4.00 **Travelogue**. Alternative traveler's guide to holidays presented by Robert Ellis. In this programme he shows how to be welcomed as a traveller in the rain forests of the Amazon basin as the Indian Waorani tribe host a rather special holiday in Ecuador (r)  
4.30 **Countdown**. Simon Williams joins Richard Whitley in this popular time of words and numbers  
5.00 **The Late Show**. Popular Irish music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne  
6.00 **Roseanne**. American sitcom featuring the larger than life Roseanne Barr and her not so tiny husband played by John Goodman (r)  
6.30 **Tonight With Jonathan Ross**. The guests include Tina Brown, editor of *Vanity Fair* magazine, and singer Chris Isaak  
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext)  
7.50 **Comment followed by Weather**  
8.00 **Brookside**. Gritty Liverpool soap. (Teletext)  
8.30 **My Two Dads**. Lame American sitcom that not only depends on a preposterous storyline but is badly acted on the bargain



**Specialist in restoring estranged families: Ariel Bruce (5.00pm)**

8.00 **Cutting Edge: Relative Strangers**.  
A Channel 4 Enigma Channel-charged documentary by Philippe Walker follows two people in their search for their natural mothers. Andrew Coleman, who runs a successful business, was adopted at birth, beaten by his foster parents and placed in care. He believes his rejection was due to a withheld hand. At 30 he feels a compelling need to trace his parents. Linda Fues, of similar age and married with two children, also wants to find her real mother. The detective work in each case is undertaken by Ariel Bruce, who was herself taken into care after being abused by her mother and specialises in tracking down lost relatives. The film pursues the cases to their very different conclusions, one leading to a joyful family gathering and the other to a painful rejection. It neatly demonstrates that while official policy is to always with secrecy and encourage contact, the process may not always be a smooth one. (Teletext)  
9.00 **The Manageress**. Popular drama series about the woman manager of a second division football team. The team have played their last match of the season and Gabriele's father, Sergio Rebacchi, has arranged a friendly game for the team in Italy, but the chairman has financial plans for the club which could threaten the loyalty of the fans back home (r). (Teletext)  
11.00 **Chances of a New Life**. A case study by Michael Hore, which examines the situation of migrant workers from Mali's Sabel region in France. Originally these workers came to France and worked for a period of time, sending money back to their families, but a change in legislation has forced them to become permanent immigrants. As a result many of them have founded hundreds of associations to fund development projects in their home villages and the film explores three of these which are currently under way (r)  
12.00 **Channel 4 News** - highlights special. More news and analysis of the Gulf crisis. Ends at 12.05am

at 11.00 The Good Food Show 12.15pm  
July: Jenny Rostall 1.05 *Wives & Daughters*  
8.0 Search for Tomorrow 1.35 The Edge of  
Night 2.00 *Dawson* Court 2.25 It's Your  
Waylife 2.25 *Cousins* 3.05 *Roadside* 3.15  
Theatre 3.55 *The Boat* 4.05 *Pyrele* 4.35  
Anti-American Gunmen 5.00 The Sal-  
vatore Shopping Channel 6.00 *STV* 10.00  
The Backyard Shopping Channel 12.00  
satellite selector

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL**

© Via the Marcopolo satellite.  
At 10pm The General Died at Dawn (1936)  
© A memorable (Gary Cooper) takes for  
a suicidal spy

3.30 The Movie Show

© The movie channel of the Hand (1954, by the  
A. Scholastic in the hand in Venice when the  
other, a British spy, is kidnapped

© 6.00 *Samurai: The Movie* 3.30 British  
© 6.05 The story of the film "The  
Viceroy (Martin Shaw) brings the plight of  
the merchant's business to Washington's

at 11.00 *Hannu's War* (1989): The true story of  
the Palestinian resistance fighter Hanna  
Sannah, starring Ellen Burstyn  
12.00 *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*  
(1987): Steve Martin and John Candy  
become reluctant travelling companions  
11.30 *Asia* 11.40 (1977): The account of a  
squadron of first world war fighter pilots  
1.30pm The Glory of a Mad Old Man  
(1974): A wealthy old man suffers a stroke,  
and is stranded to by his seductive  
daughter-in-law. Ends at 3.30

**THE SPORTS CHANNEL**

© Via the Marcopolo satellite.  
1.30pm ATP Tennis 3.30 British Rugby  
League 5.30 TFL TFL 6.30 American  
Football 7.30 *World Cup* 8.30  
Newcastle v Nottingham Forest 9.45 Italian  
Football 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 *Fal*  
Football

**THE POWER STATION**

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# Kinnock and Major clash over early 'khaki' poll

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister and Opposition leader yesterday clashed over the prospect of an early "khaki election" in the wake of an allied victory in the Gulf.

As John Major dismissed the phrase "khaki election" as silly, Neil Kinnock put his party on an election footing in a speech devoted to an attack on the government's handling of the economy and the poll tax.

The prime minister said there was no party point to be made over the Gulf conflict as, with a few exceptions, the Commons had been united in the need for action in the Gulf and in the way in which the military operation had been conducted.

"I have no intention of giving an indication of when we might have an election, not least because I've not yet myself given it any particular thought," he added in an interview for BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*.

However, Mr Kinnock told party workers at Nottingham not to discount as too cynical the idea of a poll in early spring or summer. "Considerations of good taste and economic probity are not going to get in the way of a Tory government that will grab at any chance they think they can get, however slim the chance for avoiding defeat," he said.

In a speech designed to re-establish a domestic political agenda and to assist Labour to regain the initiative in key policy

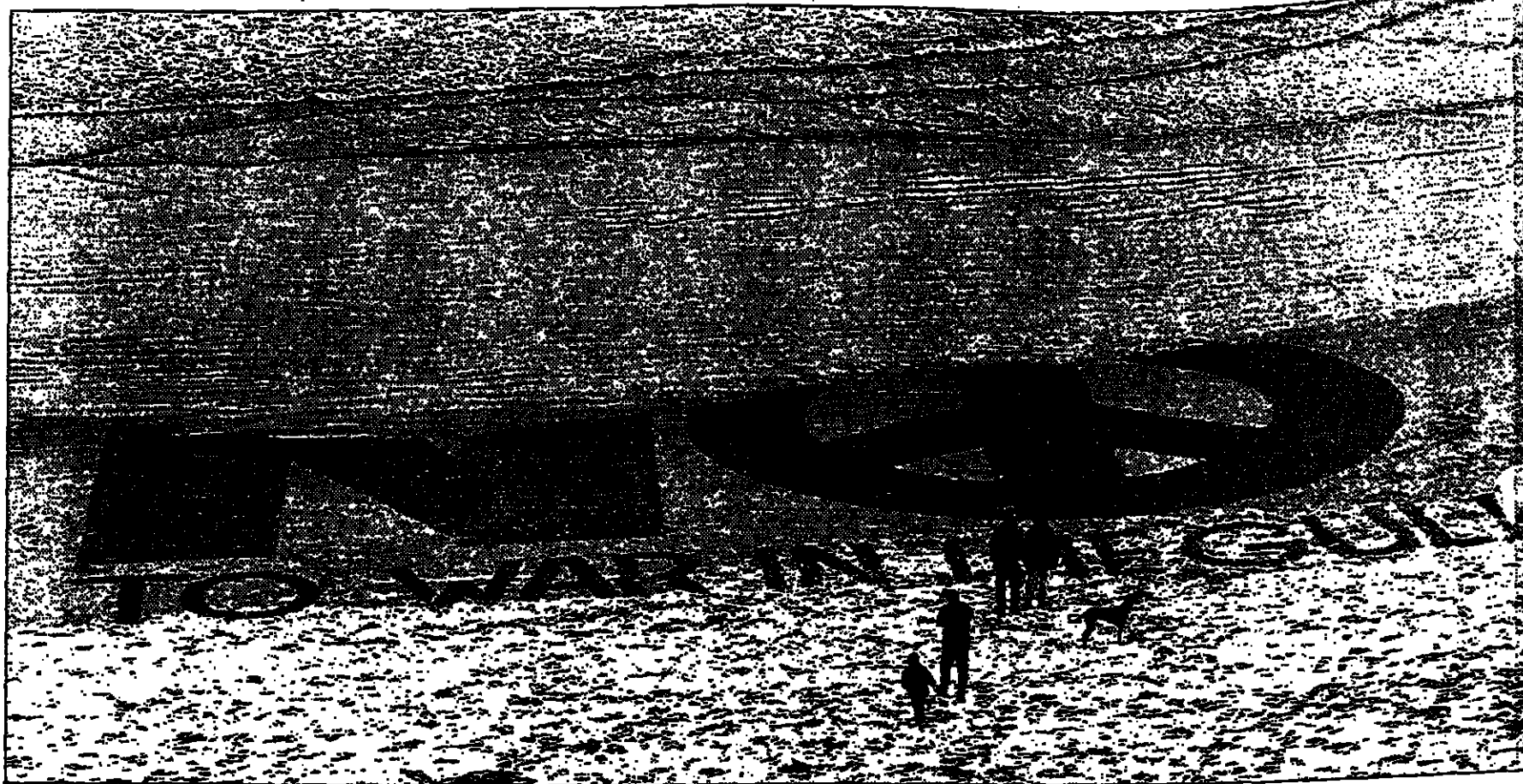
areas such as the poll tax and economy, Mr Kinnock only mentioned the conflict in the Gulf in relation to a possible early election.

With the state of the economy and the poll tax likely to dominate the next general election, Labour's strategy is to ensure that Mr Major, as a former chief secretary to the Treasury and Chancellor, cannot escape the political consequences of the recession and the unpopularity of the community charge. Since Mr Major succeeded Margaret Thatcher, the Labour leadership has found it difficult to mount a sustained attack on the prime minister because he has blurred the edges of the most unpopular policies pursued by his predecessor.

They have dropped depicting him as "son of Thatcher" and will now focus criticism on policies, relating them to Mr Major's jobs as a minister under Mrs Thatcher.

In his speech to Labour's local government conference, Mr Kinnock ridiculed the prime minister's vision of a classless society. "The head of a government who proclaims belief in the 'classless society' has been a social security minister and Treasury minister during the years in which the poor have been made poorer, the rich have been made richer and the millions in between have been made more indebt and less secure," he said.

The Labour leader also accused



Promenade protest: delegates at the Young Conservatives' annual conference in Scarborough awake to see this anti-war message sketched in the sand

## Commuters face travel delays as freeze sets in for another week

Continued from page 1

temperatures down and no great improvement is in sight," a London weather centre spokesman said.

Overnight temperatures fell well below freezing in many parts of the country, but in London and the South-East they remained around -1C or -2C. The lowest temperatures were recorded in Madley, near Hereford, and Cefnall, Staffordshire, at -14C. The main airports were open but at Gatwick skiers heading for the Alps spent a night in a hotel because of delays. There were also delays at Birmingham airport.

The worst-hit area in the South-West was Exmoor, Devon, where

the A39 was closed because of snow drifts. Snowploughs finally broke through and police said the road was passable with care. Several farms on Exmoor were isolated and expanses of Cornwall were covered by up to six inches of snow driven into drifts by wind.

Police forces around the country warned people enjoying the conditions not to walk on frozen ponds, rivers or canals. In Hampshire, police asked children not to turn pavements into slides that were dangerous to other people, and in Essex police said they would charge drivers who abandoned vehicles on motorways.

In Scotland, skiers took advantage of near-perfect conditions at

Glenshee and Aviemore, and sunny spells encouraged hundreds of mountaineers in Glencoe and in the Ben Nevis area to climb. However, warnings were sounded that this could be one of the worst years on record for accidents.

Survival experts warned climbers, especially those from the South unused to the fast-changing weather in the Highlands, to be extra careful. Hamish MacInnes, a member of a rescue team and a veteran climber, said that the avalanche risk was high and that many people did not realise the Scottish mountains could be more hazardous than the Alps.

In rural areas many roads remained impassable, but the AA

said that the motorways and main artery routes across the country were open although the M1 had only one lane in each direction in the Midlands. "The main problem is where councils have not gritted roads. Minor roads are blocked and others are treacherous," a spokesman said.

Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, said the government was to blame for the failure of many local authorities to grit hazardous roads. "Outbacks on local authority funding and threats of community charge capping have caused councils to cut back on essential services like gritting the roads," he said.

In Dorset, police said that only drivers of four-wheel-drive vehicles should attempt journeys, and warnings also went out to motorists in Yorkshire, Northumberland and Cumbria.

Accidents over the weekend were minimal, as many drivers followed advice from the police and motoring organisations not to venture out on to snow and ice-bound roads unless a journey was absolutely necessary.

In one crash, however, a newly married Spanish woman died when a car driven by her husband went out of control in icy conditions on the M5 near Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. The couple, who have not been named, were on their way to Devon.

The bitter weather brought power lines down in Kent. Hundreds of homes in Swanscombe, Greenwich and Romney had no power for several hours.



Curtain call: John Major at the Scarborough conference

His speech signalled a change of emphasis from Mrs Thatcher's administration in making only a passing reference to privatisation and giving priority to improved public services. He said: "We know that the role of government is limited. It is still too big. But let us be clear about one thing. We must never accept that limited government means the lowering of standards."

The prime minister identified education as top of his personal political agenda with better training and pay for teachers. He added: "I want to see an unending search for better quality in all our public services."

"When we deprive people of their money in taxes, they have a right to ensure it is never wasted by the government. For far too long we have tolerated public services that are just not good enough: council house repairs that are shoddy and slow, hospital appointments that take all day, trains that run late and buses that run in packs."

## Cheltenham votes 2-1 for Taylor

Continued from page 1

ingly reached. Chris Patten, Tory party chairman, said: "I am delighted but not surprised that Cheltenham Conservatives have confirmed John Taylor's selection. He is a first class candidate and will be an excellent member of parliament."

Sir Charles Irving said: "I am absolutely delighted. It is a splendid result. John Taylor will make a superb candidate and will increase the vote and the majority. I have no hesitation in giving him my 100 per cent backing."

Sir Charles said he gained the impression that those who voted for a re-run would now rally behind Mr Taylor. "He will win

over quite a lot of Liberals. We shall be pleased to have the first black Conservative MP in this country."

A number of members of the association opposed Mr Taylor's selection after he was adopted during a somewhat confused meeting last December. The rebels claimed that the meeting had not followed correct procedure. Mr Taylor had been the only candidate presented and many at the meeting had thought they were voting against him while their votes were counted in his favour.

The anti-Taylor group, calling itself the Gang of Eight, denied any racial motivation, saying that they wanted Mr Taylor to run

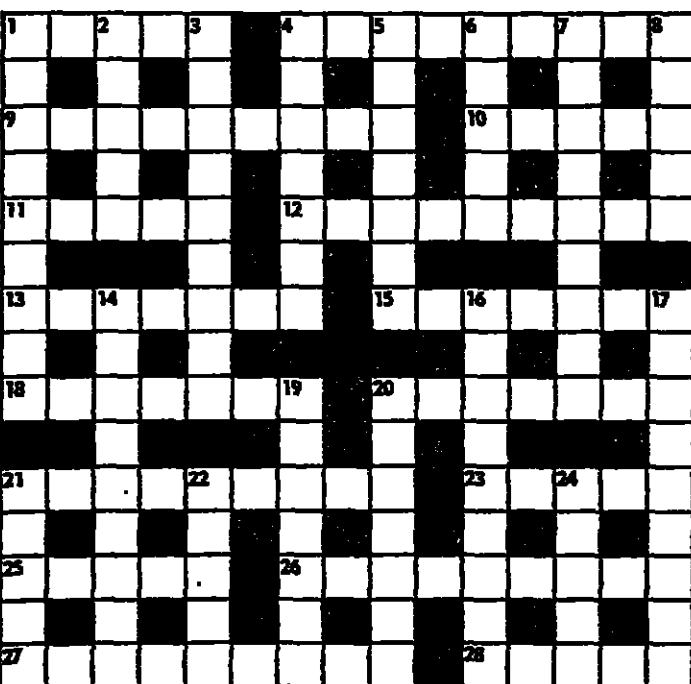
again but this time against a choice of local candidates. They said also that the fact that Mr Taylor, a barrister and former home office adviser, had been tipped by Mr Norman Tebbit for elevation to the Cabinet would leave him little time for constituency business.

A comment by Bill Galbraith, an association member, led to his expulsion and a Commons statement by the prime minister.

Opposition campaigners said that they would back Mr Taylor following the result of the ballot.

Voting at the 1987 general election: C. Irving (Con) 31,371; R. G. Holme (Lib All) 26,475; M. Luker (Lab) 4,701.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,526



### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

### TERMS

- a. A sandpiper
- b. Light canvas
- c. A wagon cavalcade
- d. A desert place
- e. Interpreting
- f. Pertaining to fishing
- g. A knee-length cloak
- h. A rock garden
- i. A student nurse
- j. A lion/tiger cross
- k. A Californian sea-fish
- l. The shaft of a pillar

### Answers on page 16, column 1

### AA ROADWATCH

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M25/M26/M27/M28 735

M25/M26/M27/M28 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Angles 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheaper rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

England and Wales will have a cold day after an overnight frost. Snow showers will continue in exposed coastal areas, mainly in the East where a northerly wind could cause some drifting. Many inland areas will have only the old snow shower. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells but with sleet or snow showers, mainly in coastal areas. Outlook: cold with sharp night frosts and snow showers.

TEMPERATURES: 1-4°C, 5-8°C, 9-12°C, 13-16°C, 17-20°C, 21-24°C, 25-28°C, 29-32°C, 33-36°C, 37-40°C, 41-44°C, 45-48°C, 49-52°C, 53-56°C, 57-60°C, 61-64°C, 65-68°C, 69-72°C, 73-76°C, 77-80°C, 81-84°C, 85-88°C, 89-92°C, 93-96°C, 97-100°C.

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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-23  
● EDUCATION 24,25  
● SPORT 27-32

# BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 11 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Quarterly £10m loss expected at BA

THE round of company results, beginning this week, is expected to show industry struggling with the recession and the effects of the Gulf war. British Airways is expected to announce more than 5,000 job cuts, a sharp fall in third quarter profits and plans to cut costs.

The airline said it would be making a statement about the state of the business and the steps it would be taking when it presents its results for the nine months to the end of December tomorrow.

BA is expected to show a loss of between £10 million and £20 million in the third quarter, against a £71 million profit last time that would bring profits for the nine months to about £500 million, against £30 million last time.

Other companies reporting this week include Hanson, Reuters, Amstrad, British Petroleum, British Telecom and BOC Group.

Reporting this week, page 22

## Blue Arrow trial starts

The most expensive criminal trial yet, Blue Arrow 1, starts today in a specially organised courtroom off Chancery Lane, central London.

The Blue Arrow fraud case, which is expected to run for at least seven months, is likely to require more than 100 witnesses, as the events surrounding the biggest rights issue the City has witnessed, in September 1987, are analysed.

At issue in the trial are the actions of three corporate defendants and seven individuals on behalf of their client, Blue Arrow, then the world's leading employment agency that was bidding for Manpower, a rival American group.

Lucrative time, page 21

## Saatchi close to £30m package

Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, is believed to be close to completing a funding package that would raise up to £30 million for the company.

The cash is expected to be raised either via a rights issue or by the issue of preference shares. Simon Mellor, a Saatchi director, declined to say whether a financing deal would soon be struck.

## Priority for fans

Fans of Manchester United, the football club, may receive priority treatment or may be offered a special deal when the club floats on the stock market this May. The club is expected to be capitalised in excess of £30 million. Professor Roland Smith is expected to become chairman of the club at the end of this month.

## Milan protest

Floor traders on the Milan bourse said they would go on strike from this Friday in protest at the government's latest attempt to tax capital gains on profits from stock dealings.

## CHANGE ON WEEK

**THE POUND**  
US dollar 1.9855 (+0.0090)  
W German mark 2.8959 (-0.0048)  
Exchange index 94.2 (-0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1760.2 (+66.2)  
FT-SE 100 2245.2 (+79.5)  
New York Dow Jones 2830.69 (+100.00)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24296.08 (+1139.35)

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.27
Austria S	13.75	13.85
Belgium F	36.40	36.50
Canada \$	2.15	2.17
Denmark K	11.87	11.97
France F	6.57	6.67
Germany D	10.27	10.37
Greece Dr	339	349
Italy L	1636	1646
Hong Kong \$	1.14	1.17
Japan Y	2280	2290
Netherlands Gld	3.40	3.49
Norway Kr	11.85	11.95
Portugal Esc	207	217
South Africa Rd	5.55	5.65
Spain Ptas	165.00	166.00
Sweden Kr	11.35	11.45
Switzerland F	2.05	2.15
Turkey Lira	2.075	2.175
USA \$	2.075	2.175
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	37.00

Notes for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)

## Bank suggests mortgages add to inflation pressures

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

LOW personal savings rates and high levels of personal borrowing in Britain can be largely attributed to the deregulation of building societies and other housing lenders in the early Eighties.

This is the implication of a comparative study of housing finance institutions around the world. It is due to be published in the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin this week.

The Bank avoids drawing any policy conclusions from its study, but the figures which it has brought together for the first time, suggest that exceptionally liberal mortgage lending policies were among the factors which contributed to the inflationary credit boom and balance of payments problems which preceded the present recession. The Bank's study shows that mortgage debt as a proportion of gross domestic product increased from 32.1 per cent in 1982 to 58.3 per cent in 1989, while the ratios in Germany, Japan and France remained roughly constant at about 20 per cent.

During the same period, Britain's personal savings ratio fell from 11.6 per cent to 5.0 per cent, which was by far the biggest drop, to the lowest level, seen in any leading country.

While financial liberalisation had permitted significantly higher levels of household gearing in Britain and America, "countries with the least developed systems of housing finance also have the highest household savings ratios", the Bulletin says. Looking at the institutional arrangements which have made

Britain's unusual gearing possible, the Bank finds that Britain is the only country in which building societies and banks are prepared to lend up to 100 per cent of the value of a property.

In America 95 per cent mortgages are possible, while in continental Europe and Japan, loan to value ratios are substantially lower, often because of official government restrictions. In Germany mortgage banks can lend only up to 60 per cent of a property's value.

In France, loans for more than 80 per cent of the value of a property are ineligible for trading in the secondary market. In Japan, the government imposes a general loan to value ratio of 60 per cent.

The large deposits required from house

purchasers because of these borrowing restrictions may well account for the high savings rates in countries like Japan and Germany, the Bank notes.

The Bank study appears to refute the widely-held belief that Britain has an exceptionally high level of owner occupation.

Britain's 66 per cent of owner-occupation compares with 64 per cent in America, 61 per cent in Japan, 64 per cent in Italy, 76 per cent in Spain, 54 per cent in France and 41 per cent in Germany.

It also shows that in 1981 prices of new houses in Britain were lower than in Germany and France in relation to gross domestic product per person. However, British house prices rose far more rapidly in real terms during the last decade.

EUROTUNNEL has spoken out in a new dispute with contractors to reassure investors that its costs are still in line with forecasts.

A spokesman for the company confirmed that Transmanche-Link, the consortium building the tunnel, had lost its claim at the dispute panel last week for an extra 55 weeks to complete the project.

The claim had threatened to add hundreds of millions of pounds to the company's costs, as Eurotunnel would have been forced to pay TML more money to complete the project on time. The dispute threatens to sour relations between Eurotunnel and TML a year after their last battle.

A Eurotunnel spokesman said: "The dispute panel refused to grant TML an extension of time as a result of a dispute. ... Additional costs, if any, are yet to be substantiated and will be negotiated over for a long time to come. The decision does not introduce any change to the programme and cost compared with the European prospectus issued last November."

The dispute arose from Eurotunnel's decision to increase the volume of traffic in the tunnel. This needs new signalling equipment, and the company has delayed some sub-contracting orders while drawing up new specifications. TML, whose members include Taylor Woodrow, Tarmac and Costain, claimed that this had delayed their work by 55 weeks, and that Eurotunnel should pay the extra costs of keeping the project on schedule.

Eurotunnel's victory means its cost forecast of £7.61 billion, made at the time of the company's rights issue last November, remains intact. The company had estimated the cost of the signalling equipment and provided for it in the forecast.

Last year's refinancing by Eurotunnel gave the project a £1.1 billion reserve to cover any rise in expenses.

The dispute panel decision was originally intended to be confidential. But Sir Alastair Morton, the company's chief executive, was said to be incensed by suggestions in newspapers at the weekend that the decision would cause the company's costs to soar.

The two sides look set for a protracted negotiation over the cost of the new equipment and its installation. A Eurotunnel spokesman said the dispute could last years.

## Tunnel denies overrun in costs

By OUR CITY STAFF

## City expects inflation fall to about 9%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMID growing fears that the recession is fast becoming a slump, financial markets will focus on Friday's January inflation figures as a guide to how soon the government can cut interest rates.

City expectations centre on retail price inflation slowing to an annual rate of about 9 per cent from 9.3 per cent in December, confirming the steady fall the government is banking on to allow sustained cuts in interest rates.

Industrial output and labour market data on Thursday will underline the seriousness of the downturn. Unemployment is forecast to have risen by 80,000 or more last month, matching December's figure and approaching the monthly rises seen at the depths of the last recession. Industrial production is expected to slow further to show an annual drop of 4.5 per cent in December, a sharp fall from the previous month.

Calls for early cuts in interest rates have become louder as evidence of the recession has grown, but the government's commitment to keeping the pound within its European exchange-rate mechanism limits would appear to rule out an immediate cut.

While the Bank of England was seen last week to signal that it was now less opposed to an early lowering of base rate, weekend comments from John Major, the prime minister, made clear that the government is giving priority to defeating inflation.

Mr Major renewed his commitment not to devalue

sterling, scorning the "craven argument" of those who believe the pound was put into the ERM at too high a rate.

The government has urged restraint on wage growth, and Thursday's average earnings figures should show a small deceleration to an annual growth rate of 9.5 per cent in December. Producer prices data are expected to confirm today that factory gate prices are still growing at an annual rate of little below 6 per cent, despite lower raw material and fuel costs.

After the Bank failed to dampen speculation of an imminent cut in base rates last week, three-month interbank rates fell to between 13 1/2 and 13 3/4, the lowest level since late November. This was seen to point to monetary easing, possibly this week. But the pound weakened in response and is bottom of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamashita International, said: "With the economy moving from recession into slump, sterling's weakness remains the key obstacle preventing the Chancellor from cutting rates."

In keeping with many City economists, Mr MacKinnon has revised his economic forecasts to take account of the gloomier outlook. He predicts a decline of 1.5 per cent in the gross domestic product this year, against 0.5 per cent growth predicted in the government's autumn statement.

With ERM membership frustrating hopes of interest rate cuts, Mr MacKinnon expects base rates to be cut to 13 per cent by the middle of the year, saying that high to prop up sterling.

His concern about the constraints ERM has placed on government policy is shared by Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, who fears that a growing fiscal deficit in Germany and rising political risk in Britain, could create a "vicious spiral". This would involve a move out of sterling, no further cuts in base rates, deepening recession and more political trauma.

Dollar weakness, which prompted concerted intervention by the leading central banks last week, is expected to figure large at a meeting of central bankers in Basel, Switzerland, today.

The American currency, while causing little apparent concern in Germany or Japan, presents an added problem for Britain as manufacturers seek to export their way out of recession.



## British Gas in record output

BRITISH Gas is one of the few companies to welcome the blizzards, reporting a record production output at the end of last week. In the 24 hours to 6am on Friday it supplied 11.8 billion cubic feet, almost twice its normal average.

The supply beat the previous record of 11.4 billion cubic feet, set in January 1987. To meet the demand, British Gas has been forced to shut off all its interruptible supply customers.

The Morecambe Bay offshore gasfield, near Blackpool, is at maximum output.

While other companies have suffered a slump in sales and a shortage of staff, many of British Gas's employees are on overtime, while engineers in the control centres and compressor stations are camping out at work to ensure supplies run smoothly round the clock. "The system is tight," said a spokesman, "but we are okay."

British Gas is one of the most temperature sensitive of the main energy companies on the stock market. Last year, Robert Evans, the chairman, estimated that the mild winter had knocked £250 million from net profits of £1.05 billion.

Even before the latest

freeze, the company's sales were running well above last year's.

This is only the second cold winter in Britain since the company was privatised in 1986.

Analysts in the City could soon be upgrading their profits forecasts for British Gas of £1.2 billion to £1.3 billion for the full year to the end of March.

## Small businesses say climate is worst since 1980

By NEIL BENNETT

SMALL businesses hold out little hope for an early end to the recession, according to a survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

THE CBI's smaller firms economic report, published today, shows that companies have suffered the worst slump in orders and output for more than a decade.

More than two-thirds of the 723 manufacturers in the survey are less confident about their business prospects than they were last autumn. The CBI says this is the worst loss of confidence since 1980.

The survey, on companies with fewer than 200 employees, shows a steep fall in domestic orders while export volumes have also begun to drop. Manufacturing output has fallen, and companies said they expect a further fall before June. The trade slump has begun to affect employment with many firms predicting more jobless.

Most of the companies in the survey said they were planning to cut capital investment to combat lower orders. Companies are also cutting development and training budgets in 1991, although not as severely as spending on plant and machinery.

Tom O'Connor, the chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council, said: "Smaller firms now face the weakest demand outlook since 1980, with companies reporting the largest rundown in stocks for 12 years."

The CBI is pressing the government to encourage investment among small businesses by changing the corporation tax laws. It is asking for the first £35,000 of any investment to be treated as a tax-free current expenditure, and for a 50 per cent increase in the threshold of the lower corporation tax band. "It is vital to limit the damage caused to business investment by the current squeeze," said Mr O'Connor.



O'Connor: tax change plea

## Demand for bread, soup, tinned food and potatoes

## Snow lifts supermarket sales

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

HIGH streets, already hit by the recession, suffered yet again as the snow kept customers at home at the weekend. But supermarkets had bumper sales as people stocked up on soups, bread, canned goods and potatoes.

Alistair Grant, chairman and chief executive of Argill, the Safeway supermarket group, said sales last week were up about 5 per cent, but the extra costs associated with disrupted distribution and overtime payments, to keep the stores running throughout the bad weather, meant that the effect on profits would be neutral.

John Hardman, chairman of Asda, said there had been a big demand for soup and bread at Asda stores, particularly in the Southeast. While some bread manufacturers had failed to foresee the

demand, Asda's in-store bakeries meant that the shelves were well stocked.

Mr Grant said Safeway experienced a surge in buying last Wednesday and Thursday, as people stocked up in advance of the snow. Sales of candles and salt ran particularly high as did pasta and canned goods. By Friday, the weather had made distribution difficult in the Southeast, the Southwest and the Midlands. Sales were held back in these areas although sales continued to be strong in the North.

In addition to the distribution problems, up to 40 per cent of the staff in some areas failed to make it to work. Mr Grant said those who were able to stay late were paid overtime. While sales during the day last week were high, the stores were quiet in the evenings.

Mr Hardman said there had been distribution problems in the Southeast.

He said there was no problem with product availability but simply with distributing products to the stores. Stores should be fully stocked today.

The supermarkets are expecting the price of some products to rise next week, due to lack of availability and distribution problems. Mr Grant says he expects potatoes, cabbages, brussels sprouts, carrots and turnips to rise in price. But he says Britain has seen none of the panic buying being experienced on the Continent in the wake of the Gulf war.

"The British consumer is less susceptible, more sophisticated. On the Continent people still have memories of war time shortages," he said.

Safeway advertisements this week will remind people to feed the birds, if Mr Grant has his way. "We've been feeding the robins in the garden the remains of the Christmas cake," he said.

### Improve Your Business' Efficiency

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## Job cuts of 10% likely at Lewis's

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE first redundancies at the Lewis's department store group, which went into receivership at the end of last month, with debts of more than £50 million, are expected to be announced today.

The receivers, from Grant Thornton, the accountants, held talks with the employees' unions over the weekend about how the redundancies will be structured. About 10 per cent of the 3,500 employees are likely to lose their jobs, with those at head office appearing most vulnerable.

The fate of Lewis's Travel, the group's holiday business, which has so far resisted receivership, is also likely to be announced today.

The group's 11 department stores have been open for a week under the control of the receivers.

Allan Griffiths, one of the joint receivers, said the support of the group's customers was one reason all goods ordered on deposit before the receivership were delivered, provided the balance was paid in full.

The receivers are holding talks with two groups that are interested in acquiring the bulk of the Lewis's stores.

Analysis by The Times reveals plight of service sector

# South suffers worst for jobless

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

## REGIONAL JOBLESS

	Average increase in constituency unemployment %	
	Cons.	Labour
South East	47.5	20.2
East Anglia	41.5	21.0
South West	37.0	23.6
West Midlands	15.7	9.3
East Midlands	22.7	11.4
York & H/Side	12.6	8.9
North West	8.3	5.2
North	7.8	3.9
Wales	9.5	9.8
Scotland	4.8	3.3

No Cons. or Labour seats in N. Ireland  
\* Only one seat held

SHARP rises in unemployment among white-collar workers in the service sector and in the South have combined to increase the political pressure on the government from growing unemployment, according to a new analysis on unemployment trends carried out by *The Times*.

The segregated nature of the rise in unemployment will be underlined this week by the monthly figures for those out of work and claiming benefit in January, which some City analysts predict could show an increase of more than 100,000.

The expected rise in the figure, which will push unemployment close to 2 million, will be followed by further increases in the coming months as the wave of job losses being announced by companies squeezed by high interest rates feeds through.

Recent large job losses have included 1,000 at Jaguar, 1,850 at Federal Express, 1,200 at BREL and 1,000 at London Underground. British Airways will tell its unions today of its plans to cut more than 5,000 jobs.

The government is under strong pressure from industry to cut interest rates to help companies hard-hit by recession.

But *The Times* analysis of the rise in unemployment over the past 12 months indicates that such business pressure is likely to be accompanied by voter demand for an easing of economic policy because the increase in the number of jobless is hitting the Conservatives much harder than the Labour party.

The differential impact of unemployment on the political parties has been driven by the type of jobs lost in this recession. A decade ago, most of the 2 million jobs lost were in manufacturing, and losses in that recession were concentrated in old industrial areas, often in the North.

Now, though, the recession is hitting white-collar jobs, service sector work and employment in the South — all strong factors in parliamentary seats which tend to vote Conservative. That is reflected in the overall results of *The Times* computer analysis of unemployment change in the 650 House of Commons constituencies, which shows unemployment rose in December 1989-December 1990 in Labour-held seats by 6.4 per cent, while in Conservative seats it increased by as much as 32.4 per cent — more than

five times the Labour rate. The pronounced regional differences behind these national figures show rises in unemployment were worse in Conservative seats in every economic region except Wales, where Labour's employment rise was marginally higher, and in Scotland.

Because unemployment continued to fall in Scotland for six months after it started rising last April in the United Kingdom overall, unemployment in Scotland actually declined over the 12 months of *The Times* analysis, though like every other British region it is now on the increase. Figures to be published this week by the Confederation of British Industry, based on its

recent gloomy *Industrial Trends* survey, will show that the recession has now spread to every part of the country.

But *The Times* analysis shows the increase in Conservative unemployment was particularly sharp in southern areas of Britain. The highest rises were across the whole belt of southern Britain, from East Anglia through London and the South-East to the South-West.

Unemployment in Conservative seats in the South-East, for example, rose from 237,168 to 333,379 — an increase of 96,211, giving an average rise across constituencies of 47.5 per cent. In Labour seats, unemployment rose from 93,941 to 111,025,

an increase of 17,084, or an average cross-constituency rise of 20.2 per cent.

Breaking the analysis down further shows other significant results. Berkshire is an entirely Conservative county, with all seven parliamentary seats held by the Tories. At the London end of the M4 high-tech corridor, the county saw considerable job growth in the Eighties. Now, though, as the recession has hit, Berkshire seats have seen unemployment rise in the last year by an average 61.5 per cent.

Elsewhere, all-Tory county which is often seen as the heartland of the new entrepreneurial Conservatism, has seen its cross-constituency unemployment rise by an average 47.7 per cent.

Labour has only one county in which it holds all parliamentary seats — Mid-Glamorgan in South Wales. Here unemployment across the constituency has risen by only 11.8 per cent, though the absolute number of people unemployed is higher than in Berkshire, for instance.

Tyne & Wear, another Labour heartland area, which in Tyne & Wear has one Conservative seat out of its total 13, has seen across the seats and average rise in unemployment of only 3.2 per cent.

## GILT-EDGED

# In economics, for lean and fit read skinny and weak

The recession is likely to be deeper and more prolonged than the gilt market is expecting and will highlight the inadequacies of government policy, which is not capable of tackling the economy's deep-rooted problems. In part this is because the economy is not lean and fit, but skinny and weak.

The immediate outlook points to a large reduction in inflation and a sizeable improvement in the current account deficit. This could improve sentiment for sterling, allowing interest rates to fall and prompting a bounce-back in activity.

The trouble is that the market appears to be regarding this as a shallow recession and has thus focused on the cyclical aspects of the downturn while ignoring the structural factors. These will mean that any bounce-back in activity is likely to be small and temporary.

First, the level of indebtedness, particularly within the corporate sector, suggests that the normal transmission mechanism from lower interest rates to higher activity will not work fully in this downturn. The financial deficit is contributing to investment cutbacks, rising unemployment and bankruptcies in all sectors.

As interest rates fall in response to the deepening recession, people and companies are more likely to repay debts and rebuild savings, limiting consumption and output growth.

Second, the balance of payments constraint points to either a sterling depreciation or a tight fiscal policy to depress domestic demand. Although falling imports could lower the current account deficit to £8 billion in 1991, this cyclical improvement will still leave the deficit at an unsustainable high level.

Furthermore, the structural problems associated with the deficit will remain, including Britain's high propensity to import and its inability to produce sufficient quality goods for export. Thus any increase in demand will lead once more to a deterioration in the current account deficit.

Third, the ERM constraint will limit export growth potential, particularly given the government's commitment to sterling's uncompetitive exchange rate. This is being exacerbated by the growing American recession and sluggish world growth.

Sterling's overvaluation will be seen either when interest rates fall this year, and the short-term support for sterling evaporates, or when economic activity re-

vives and inflation and import problems re-emerge. Although the authorities do not want a devaluation, this may be forced on them by the market, particularly once it is clear that underlying problems remain.

Although there will be a sharp, recession-induced fall in inflation this year, the policy stance should be viewed as a short-sighted response to reducing inflation. Underlying problems on inflation are not being addressed.

The problem of high wage growth is set to persist, particularly in view of skill shortages. As with the experiment with monetary aggregates in the early Nineties, inflationary expectations are unlikely to be reduced by ERM entry. A wage bargaining process based on forward-looking contracts needs to be instigated by the government.

At present, wage cuts are likely to depend on the economy being squeezed further. However, this would reduce the manufacturing base. It is clear that the deterioration in competitiveness and the decline in investment will lead to future capacity constraints and limits on productivity growth. Both will be inflationary.

Furthermore, the reduction in capacity will limit Britain's capacity for import substitution.

What is needed is a credible and consistent policy framework. This necessitates sharp cuts in interest rates, allowing sterling to depreciate to a sustainable level, consistent with an improvement in the trade balance.

To neutralise any inflationary implications of lower interest rates, fiscal policy should be tightened, and redirected towards boosting savings and investment, thus improving the supply side.

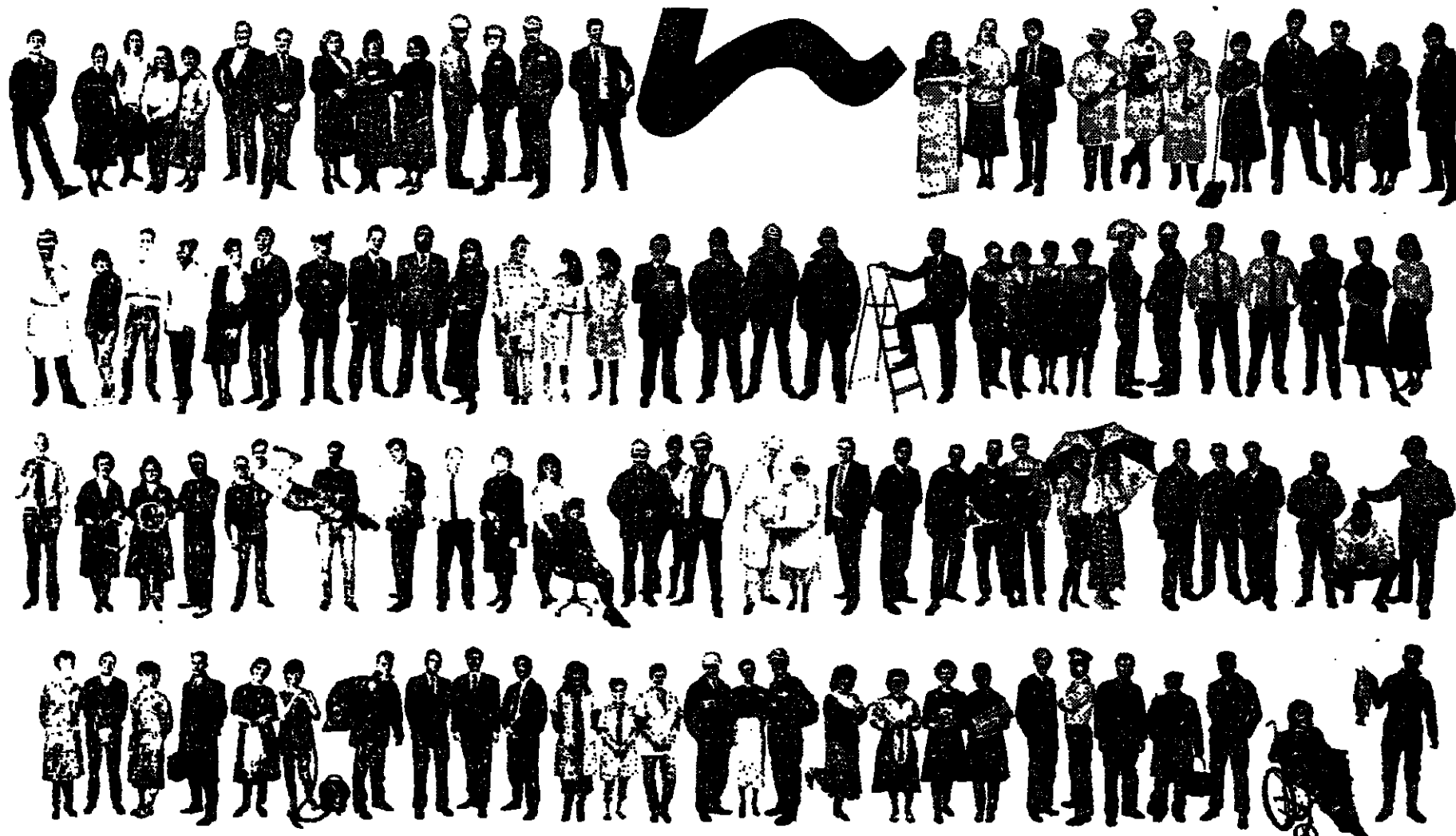
Against this background we expect the shape of the yield curve to change dramatically. Yields at the short end will fall this year as inflation and interest rates fall.

Meanwhile, yields on long-dated government debt will experience two moves. First they will decline, as the disinflationary global environment improves the outlook for world bonds. Then, however, domestic factors will cause longer-dated yields to rise sharply, as the poor outlook for inflation and the current account increase the risk premium attached to sterling assets.

GERARD LYONS  
DKB International

# TEES/SIDE

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# TEES/SIDE

## Initiative Talent Ability

## Fimbra promises tighter control

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FIMBRA, the financial regulatory body, has promised to step up the supervision of its members, despite a reorganisation last week in which almost a quarter of its staff was dismissed.

But Marjorie Mowlam, Labour spokesman on City affairs, has given warning there is a "real threat" of Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, suffering insolvency unless the government steps in.

This weekend Fimbra underwent a complete overhaul. Godfrey Jilings, new chief executive, has merged the compliance, membership and investigation departments, and set up six regional divisions, each run by a team leader.

Mr Jilings said the new structure would be more efficient, and would give staff more time to concentrate on regulation. This, he said, would include more spot checks and personal visits to the 7,000 members to ensure

they were complying with the Financial Services Act.

"In the past there was too much focus on administration rather than catching crooks," said Mr Jilings. "This change will also mean less paperwork for our members." Mr Jilings joined Fimbra last year from National Westminster Bank.

The changes and the 40 redundancies will save Fimbra an estimated £1 million a year. But Mr Jilings gave warning that Fimbra still faced a potential cash crisis due to falling membership, which is reducing revenues, and the body's commitments to the Investors Compensation Scheme.

Fimbra's council has sent a discussion document to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Securities and Investment Board calling for a new retail watchdog to merge the existing financial regulatory bodies.

The call has been backed by Dr Mowlam, who proposed a similar scheme last year.

## Hurd says UK has good chance of Kuwaiti work

A HIGH-LEVEL British business delegation has a good chance of winning contracts for the rebuilding of Kuwait, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

The ten-strong group, a "task force" of industries with the expertise most likely to be needed in the post-war reconstruction of Kuwait, is

led by Lord Prior, GEC chairman. The delegation dined with Crown Prince Saad al-Sabah and Kuwaiti ministers at the weekend in the western Saudi city of Taif, seat of the exiled government.

Mr Hurd said: "They did well. They've got a detailed plan, they've done their homework, and I think they would have impressed the Kuwaitis."



## Marxists for perestroika

### ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Looking down at the world from the top of the Alps certainly helps to put things in perspective. The dominant topic of conversation among the businessmen, politicians and economists gathered at the World Economic Forum, in Davos last week, was not the Gulf war, but the fate of the Soviet Union.

All is not lost, especially on the economic front. This was the most striking message from the dozens of Soviet leaders, ranging from government apologists and large industrialists to outspoken radicals and private entrepreneurs, who came to Davos. The main reason for optimism was eloquently expressed by Hans Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister.

"The reasons which made perestroika imperative in 1985 are still valid. They have rendered impossible a return to the totalitarian system at home and to the old hegemonic foreign policy. For such a relapse would inexorably perpetuate the Soviet Union's decline."

"The final result would be the total disintegration of the country's military strength as well."

To Western ears, this may just sound like wishful thinking. After all, when have political leaders, and especially military ones, ever pursued their nations' best interests? But this kind of question is another instance of the profound misunderstanding of the Soviet Union that pervades the West.

For arguments about historical inevitability have an enormous influence in Soviet society. All Soviet citizens, from nationalist radicals to diehard reactionaries have been thoroughly schooled in Marxist thinking.

And if there is one part of Marxist teaching that has not been thoroughly refuted by the velvet revolutions of the late Eighties it is the doctrine of dialectical materialism—the idea that each revolutionary transformation of a society is dictated by a contradiction between the old political order and the development of the economic forces that keep that order in being. The

reason why Gorbachev was able to start perestroika — or more accurately, was forced by events to do so — was that he could not make the old command economy work.

Now that the old mechanisms have completely broken down, the chances of making totalitarian socialism function are even smaller, and even the most reactionary generals and industrial bureaucrats are recognising this as an "objective" fact, in the Marxist sense.

"Objective necessity" is certainly what the Soviet Union's growing band of quasi-independent business leaders are relying on, to protect them from a possible backlash in the months ahead. Some vivid illustrations

were provided by Lev Weinberg, the main distributor of IBM computers in the Soviet Union and the president of the Association of Joint Ventures, and Nikolai Bekh, the general director of Kamaz, the country's biggest truck manufacturing enterprise, now operating, at least on paper, as a privatised joint stock company, completely independent of the government.

More than 10 per cent of the country's gross national product is now generated by co-operatives, joint ventures and private firms — and this part of the economy is growing extremely rapidly while everything else shrinks. In this sense, attacking the private sector is becoming increasingly dangerous for the

Soviet government. But what Mr Weinberg called the "negative imperatives" are even stronger. For the first time in Soviet history, Gosplan, the state planning agency has no detailed plan for the next year. Mr Weinberg reports that only 18 of the 620 employees at the Gosplan's computer centre in Moscow have work to do, and the others are looking with increasing desperation for outside contracts. In this sense, there is literally no central system to go back to.

From the industrialists' viewpoint, the decay of the old arrangements is even more decisive. Kamaz, says Mr Bekh, no longer relies on Gosplan, the all-powerful state purchasing and supply agency, because Gosplan "simply does not exist". Kamaz now obtains its raw materials and parts mostly through barter — by offering trucks to steelworks and diesel engines to collective farms. While barter is absurdly ineffi-

cient and consumes at least 50 per cent of the management's time, it does have one big advantage. It automatically gives priority to civilian over military production, since it is "difficult to barter a missile or a tank".

Naturally, the consequences of this kind of revolution through decay are dangerous and unpredictable. There is no simple correspondence between economic and political liberalisation. It is no coincidence that even Viktor Alksnis, the neo-fascist Latvian colonel who has led the army's demands for repression, has spoken of the need to continue the economic transition.

And it is not surprising that voices close to Mr Gorbachev have begun to mention Japan, South Korea, and even Chile, as more relevant models than Western Europe or America for the next stage of their country's politico-economic transition.

The imposition of a market economy by force may now be the greatest threat facing the Soviet people. This is a threat to which the West may not know how to respond.

## Blue Arrow trial marks lucrative time for lawyers



Roy Amlot, QC, who appears today for Alan Keat and under the aegis of Mitchell Fromstein, the new chairman, his head office has been transferred from London to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

County NatWest, the merchant banking offshoot of National Westminster Bank, was adviser to Blue Arrow, while UBS Phillips & Drew

trial's defendants "to defraud such persons who had, or might have had an interest in acquiring, disposing of, subscribing for, sub-underwriting or otherwise dealing in shares of Blue Arrow, by dishonestly misleading the market".

The corporate defendants are UBS Phillips & Drew, represented by Edward Lawson, QC, and County NatWest and its parent NatWest Investment Bank, which together will be represented by John Matthew, QC, the doyen of the criminal bar who was senior Treasury counsel at the Old Bailey for several years.

Of the individuals, Jonathan Cohen, the former chief executive of County NatWest and the deputy chief executive of NWIB, will be represented by Jeremy Roberts, QC; Alan Jones, QC, will appear for Stephen Clark, County's group finance director; and Anthony Hooper, QC, will appear for David Reed, County's former managing director of corporate finance.

Vivian Robinson, QC, appears for Nicholas Wells, once an executive director of County. Roy Amlot, QC, another former senior Treasury counsel, represents Mr Keat, a partner at Travers Smith & Bradburn, a firm of City solicitors, who advised County on the rights issue.

Martin Gibbs, a former director of P&D, is represented by Richard Du Cann, QC, the former chairman of the Bar Council, and brother of Sir Edward Du Cann, a former Conservative minister and chairman of Lloyds. Robert Harman, QC, who also represented Sir Jack Lyons in the first Guinness trial, appears for Christopher Sizemore, formerly director of corporate finance at P&D.

Nicholas Purnell, QC, Jonathan Harvie and Michael Bowes, prosecuting, have been instructed by the Serious Fraud Office.

ANGELA MACKAY

## A Thorny road to Thames

### TEMPUS

THORN EMI's offer for Thames TV looks like a move fuelled by desperation rather than an indication of which particular blind alley Thorn is charging down this week.

BET's troubles have been well publicised, and Thorn's offer is clearly an attempt to head off a sale of BET's 27.8 per cent holding at a distress price.

With 55.6 per cent of the shares, Thorn was required under the City code to bid, albeit unwillingly. The offer reflects a balancing act in paying BET enough to keep it happy while not tempting other shareholders to sell out.

Thorn does not want full ownership of Thames. The bombed-out share price can only improve if the company wins in the forthcoming share price round, at which stage Thorn can offload its majority stake at a handsome profit.

If Thames loses its franchise, there are enough assets there to make the deal attractive to Thorn, including probably the best programme library of any independent company, while it can pick up the rest of the shares cheaply.

If the franchise is regained and Thames shares head north again, it will probably be the best corporate deal Thorn has ever pulled off.

All this begs the question:

why not bid at a realistic level for the whole company? First, Thorn, with £400 million of debt, would have difficulty raising the cash. The shares, at 63p, closed last week only 8p above the level at which Thorn placed 13 million shares to fund the deal. Second, the retention of a listing helps lock in the Thames management before the franchise round. Third, Thorn is hedging its risk if the share price subsequently slumps.

If Thorn is paying a less than full price, clearly it is not in the interests of existing Thames shareholders to accept. The issue is muddled by the maximum 50p a share deferred and conditional consideration, which few in the market expect to amount to much, but Thames shares, at 271p, still 21p ahead of the cash on offer, suggest Thorn will not see much take-up.

Shareholders who need the cash now should sell in the market for the extra 20p or so. Holding on is the riskier option. Both the Thames share price and by implication an element of the deferred consideration are dependent on its regaining the franchise, hardly a foregone conclusion

although the removal of uncertainty over the BET stake increases the odds. Hardened gamblers, therefore, might take their chances with Thorn.

Profits from Thames are going to make precious little difference to Thorn's fortunes for now. Analysts expect pre-tax profits to fall below £260 million in the year to March against £317.5 million, with marginal recovery thereafter. The shares therefore sell on about 12 times this year's earnings and have little immediate upside potential.

### Gas suppliers

ONE penguin does not make a winter, but plenty of companies that have been complaining about the effects of a series of mild winters, culminating in last year's 300-year record, will be hoping that the much-betrayed onset of this winter will blossom into a cold spell lasting to Easter and beyond.

Arctic weather added to the construction industry's woes. Suppliers of anything from porridge to rock salt have, by contrast, been as cheered by the descending chaos in the past week as others would be by an Indian summer.

None have warmed their hands more enthusiastically than gas suppliers. Calor Group has been a weather recovery stock for years and it is too early to count the blessings of sub-zero temperatures.

British Gas has more strings to its bow, but still depends on the weather. Last year's heralded climate change left the privatised monopoly's historic cost annual profits just 3 per cent higher at £926 million. Robert Evans, the chairman, estimated that profits would have been £250 million higher in a normal winter.

Gas shares have oscillated round a gently rising trend for the past six months and have strongly outperformed the all share index. That stems from the defensive qualities of the business in the recession, aided by bursts of enthusiasm when the price of competitive oil rose a lot higher than today.

Analysts had already been forecasting historic cost profits of £1.2 billion for the year to end-March. At 245p that would rate the shares at 8½ times earnings with the added attraction of a prospective yield of 6½ per cent on a dividend that is in the process of being raised as a proportion of earnings. Rising dividends will gain much greater scarcity value over the next two years.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Hurst-Brown calls it a day

ALAN Hurst-Brown, once the senior partner of Rowe & Pitman, long reputed to be the stockbroker to the Queen, effectively left the Square Mile when he retired from the firm in 1982. Now, almost a decade later, having reached the age of 70, he has decided to retire from the business world altogether, and has left the board of Kingfisher, where he had been ever since its Paternoster days, a non-executive director. This one of Woolworth's four original directors — he is survived on the board only by baby-faced Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates — his farewell dinner at the newly-refurbished Dorchester hotel at the end of last week was an understandably sentimental affair. Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chairman and chief executive, paid tribute to him as someone who had been with the company through thick and thin and who kept us on the rails at crucial moments. Mulcahy's reminiscences will bring back similar memories for those who remember Hurst-Brown from the old days, including Victor Blank of Charterhouse and Peter Harby and Peter Thompson, still with Warrburg, the firm that eventually absorbed Rowe & Pitman. For when Luke Meinerzhagen retired as the senior partner of Cazenove, Hurst-Brown was acknowledged as "the senior partner among senior partners" and, as such, he was

entitled to wear a top hat whenever he walked on the floor of the Stock Exchange. But, ever courteous and never one to abuse such privileges, he only donned the hat when on exceptionally important business. "Colleagues," Mulcahy recalled, "knew that when they saw him coming towards them with his hat on, they should keep out of his way because he was then a force with which to be reckoned." His wife, June, is said to be the one person capable of curbing dinner table talk on his hobby, fishing. When she has had enough she rings a special bell and all conversation, not just that about fishing, usually grinds to a halt as a consequence.

### Ryan in play

THIRD time unlucky — or lucky some might say, given the spectre of redundancy



cheques — for Marlyn Ryan, a chartered accountant turned corporate financier, has lost his job for the third time in less than 18 months. Laid off first by Morgan Grenfell, with many others, he then suffered a similar fate at Kilmac & Aitken and, a week ago, the Dutch merchant bank Amro. A popular and able player and member of London Welsh rugby club, Ryan's hulking 6ft 4ins frame could soon be sadly absent from the clubhouse there because he is now thinking of leaving London. Ryan, aged 32, is also anxious to substantially reduce his 19 stone torso and his proportionately shapely 44ins waist. Given the sorry state of Welsh rugby at the moment, and judging by the success thus far of his fitness campaign, Ryan could soon find that his new-found spare time is fully occupied cutting an impressive swathe in the second row for his national team.

FROM a classified advertisement in a New Zealand newspaper: "Attention antique dealers — elderly gentleman, disillusioned with modern hearing aids, seeks old-fashioned ear trumpet. Call and SPEAK UP."

### Making amends

CONSCIENCE is a wonderful thing. NatWest Bank reports that a woman who found someone else's Servicertiff card and used it to buy £125 of Christmas shopping has returned the card together with £125 in cash. A covering note

said she had four children and an unemployed husband but after several sleepless nights she had borrowed £125 so she could make amends.

SIGN on the gate of a health farm in California: "Tubby or not tubby, fat is the question."

### Cross country

STUDIOUS City gents, alarmed at the prospect of being cut off from their trading screens by the bad weather, have taken matters into their own hands. Several were spotted last week in the Holborn branch of Blacks Leisure Group, the sports and outdoor leisure group, taking their pick of sleeping bags, boots, torches and matches. "It seems they were worried about being trapped in their cars or offices," says Simon Bentley, chairman of Blacks, who says sales shot up all over Britain last week. Sleeping bag sales were up 70 per cent on the previous week, with heavy turnover in jackets and ski-wear. Faced with sales of £250,000 last week alone, the group's employees seem keener than ever to arrive at work on time. Such was the case in Bristol, where a local store manager, abandoning his car after it became stuck in the snow, whisked a set of Black's skis out of the boot and skied three miles cross-country to work. "It showed great dedication," says Bentley, who has just returned from a skiing trip to France with a group of colleagues.

CAROL LEONARD



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British TELECOM



By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU,  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
CORRESPONDENT

The western states agreed last week to pay an extra DM15 billion to the eastern states over the next five years in addition to DM47.5 billion already committed. The governments of the eastern states welcomed the decision but said they need an extra DM10 billion this year alone to avoid bankruptcy.

## REPORTING THIS WEEK



**Frozen assets:** snow clearing goes ahead at London's Heathrow Airport at the weekend as British Airways planes stay grounded

**TODAY**

Dalgely, the Homepride to Spillers food manufacturing

**Economic statistics:** Producer price index numbers (January - provisional).

The computer market is still difficult. Despite an improved product, trading may have been affected by "dumping" of stock by some of the group's major competitors. Amstrad will benefit from strong increases in satellite equipment sales, particularly to Britain and Germany. Video sales are

**Interims:** Amstrad, Bailey (CH), British Airways (Q3), Bryant Group, Budgens, Courtney Pope (Hdgs), Dudley Jenkins Group, Fleming

Profits will be held back by the fact that currencies have moved sharply against the group year-on-year, despite hedging. Like-for-like trading for some businesses, such as bricks and aggregates, will

**THURSDAY**

BOC Group, the industrial gases and healthcare products group headed by Richard Giordano, is expected to turn in first-quarter pre-tax profits of £73 million, against £81.1

**FRIDAY**

Interim: Haynes Publishing Group.  
Fines: Farway (London). Vard AS.  
Economic statistics: Ussle steel  
production (January), retail prices  
index (January).

**PHILIP PANGLOS**

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**By Our City Staff**

The spokesman for SG Warburg said the lender-preneur transaction is seeking underwriters. Bankers said the loan will total about £1.5 billion. The original plan had been for a £1.8 billion facility, but the fall in the value of the

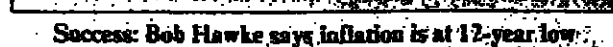
By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

from the Confederation of British Industry, chambers-of-commerce and other parts of the construction sector. Contractors federation leaders, however, insist their survey's results are not rogue and may mark the bottom of the econ-

**Sydney**

"The official (inflation) rate is down to 6 per cent, the underlying rate at 5.6 per cent — which is the lowest underlying rate since these figures have been kept in the last dozen years — and I believe it's going to go down further.

"There's a 28 per cent reduction this year in the



Australia must hang on to gains made during this economic slowdown, and cannot return to the situation two years ago where demand growth was double that of production. Mr Hawke said.

the next 12 months were still gloomy. But Mr Emery said the longer term outlook was better with considerable capital reconstruction work expected on roads and in the water industry.



# Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Sainsbury	Industrials S-Z	
2	Parsons Food	Food	
3	Bank of Scotland	Bank, Discount	
4	Norwich	Industrials L-E	
5	Type Test TV	Leisure	
6	Griffiths	Property	
7	Qatar Airways	Transport	
8	Boles Food	Food	
9	BNZ Ltd	Bank, Discount	
10	BNZ Ltd	Bank, Discount	
11	Sonnet	Property	
12	Commerzbank	Bank, Discount	
13	Higgs & Hill	Building, Roads	
14	De La Rue	Industrials A-D	
15	Whitaker	Industrials S-Z	
16	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
17	TSB	Bank, Discount	
18	Holmes	Industrials S-Z	
19	Starkey	Industrials S-Z	
20	Adair	Property	
21	Dunelm	Textiles	
22	Buttles	Property	
23	Shropshire	Property	
24	Prop Security	Property	
25	Campania Hg	Industrials S-Z	
26	Bowthorpe	Chemicals	
27	Restormel	Industrials L-E	
28	Agri	Food	
29	Rogers	Industrials L-E	
30	Qatar Airways	Transport	
31	Qatar Airways	Transport	
32	South West	Wine	
33	Anglia Sec	Building, Roads	
34	Burley Ltd	Industrials A-D	
35	Sin Handed	Industrials S-Z	
36	St Land	Property	
37	Powdermill	Industrials L-E	
38	Albion Meat	Food, Poultry, Meat	
39	Kentish (A)	Industrials S-Z	
40	T & S Stores	Property, Stores	
41	South Devon	Property, Stores	
42	Qatar Airways	Transport	
43	EMAP	Industrials S-Z	
44	Anglia Water	Water	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

The winner of the weekly Portfolio Platinum prize of £4,000 is Mr Jonathan Wilson-Croome, of Bourne, Dorset.

BRITISH FUNDS			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDEX-LINKED			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
Stock	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end February 22. £Comango day February 25. Settlement day March 4.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

BREWERIES			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

BUILDING, ROADS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

ELECTRICITY			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

FINANCE, LAND			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

FOODS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

DRAPERY, STORES			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

HOTELS, CATERERS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

ELECTRICALS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

E-K			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

L-R			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

M-N			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

O-P			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

Q-R			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

T-V			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

W-X			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

Y-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

A-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS L-E			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

# Portfolio

PLATINUM

DAILY DIVIDEND  
£2,000

Claims required for +57 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53772

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

PROPERTY			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

SHOES, LEATHER			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

TEXTILES			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

TOBACCOS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

TRANSPORT			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

WATER			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

OILS, GAS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Company	Share	Price	Div
100	1	100	1











071-481 1066

## EDUCATIONAL

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a new Chair in Electronic Engineering in the School of Engineering.

Candidates should be well qualified and have a proven record of achievement in research. The person appointed will be expected to take a leading role in research and teaching of electronic engineering. Applications from candidates who have laboratory-based research interests will be particularly welcome.

Salary will be not less than £27,013 per annum.

For an application form and further details of the post, please contact Annette Hammen, Personnel Office, Sussex House, The University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QH. Tel 023-276202.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 15th March 1991.  
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The Academic Registrar leads and manages the Academic Division of the University's administration. We are seeking to appoint a graduate with substantial experience of higher education administration and management, who will be able to respond to the challenge of rapid change in the University.

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Applications (five copies), including a full curriculum vitae, together with the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be lodged with the Registrar and Secretary, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ (telephone 0603 592208) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 18 March 1991.

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PROFESSOR IN THE  
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The University of Tromsø, Norway, is seeking applications for the following position:

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Further particulars can be obtained from the Assistant Registrar, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham, MK18 1EG to whom applications with a curriculum vitae (five copies), including the names of three referees, should be sent not later than 8 March 1991.

## The University of Buckingham

ALL BOX NO. REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
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LINGUISTICS

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1885 Chablais-Villars, Switzerland  
Tel: 41 25 35 27 21 Fax: 41 25 35 28 11  
Telex: 456211 ACOL CH

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND  
ST ANNE'S COLLEGE TWO  
TUTORIAL FELLOWSHIPS  
IN LAW

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Further particulars of both posts are available from the College Secretary, St Anne's College, Oxford OX2 6HS. The closing date for applications (10 copies) is 18 March 1991.  
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COLLEGE,  
OXFORD

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Enquiries to the College Secretary from whom further particulars can be obtained.

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New Zealand's cricketers fail to consolidate on a promising position in the first one-day international

# Bicknell's final fling puts England on the way to recovery

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters)

England won a thrilling, fluctuating match, the first of three one-day internationals, against New Zealand at Lancaster Park on Saturday by 14 runs.

New Zealand needed 20 off the last three overs after England scored 230 for seven in their 50 overs after winning the toss. But after Martin Bicknell's removal of both Ken Rutherford (77) and Chris Harris (56) in the 49th over, the tailenders left New Zealand stranded on 216 for eight.

"They looked in a good position and looked as if they might win. But we turned it in one over," a relieved England captain, Graham Gooch, said. Both sides had, indeed, twice appeared to be in positions to win, but after England's 3-0 Ashes defeat and failure against New Zealand — to make the World Series one-day finals in Australia, Gooch had been under the most pressure.

New Zealand, receiving assistance from a lively pitch, had England in early trouble with David Gower, Gooch and Mike Atherton all bowled cheaply. Willie Watson was particularly testing, bowling his ten overs for 15 runs and gaining Atherton's wicket.

But, for once, the England middle order made a respectable contribution. Robin Smith and Allan Lamb, stung perhaps by so much recent criticism, punished the second-string bowlers, transforming the game with 83 runs in 56 minutes, before Lamb was needlessly run out off a no-ball for 61. Smith found further support from Alec Stewart and the pair put on 63 in 11 overs to place England in a good position.

Smith, returning to form at last for his country, batted powerfully before he was caught by Andrew Jones off Chris Pringle for 65, including six fours and a six. Stewart, whose England place had looked in danger after a series of blemished fifties, hit 40, a flying start with John Wright smashing 27 off Bicknell's first

## CHRISTCHURCH SCOREBOARD

England won toss		ENGLAND		NEW ZEALAND	
		17	48	68	48
10 A Gooch b Pringle	17	48	68	48	68
11 D Gower b Pringle	17	48	68	48	68
12 M Atherton b Watson	17	48	68	48	68
13 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
14 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
15 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
16 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
17 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
18 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
19 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
20 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68

England won toss		ENGLAND		NEW ZEALAND	
		17	48	68	48
10 A Gooch b Pringle	17	48	68	48	68
11 D Gower b Pringle	17	48	68	48	68
12 M Atherton b Watson	17	48	68	48	68
13 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
14 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
15 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
16 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
17 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
18 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
19 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68
20 A Lamb run out (Bicknell)	17	48	68	48	68

three overs, but the fast bowler was soon to demonstrate his return to fitness. He responded by having the home captain, Martin Crowe, caught and bowled for 13.

After losing Wright for 27, New Zealand quickly reached the 80s but lost three wickets for eight runs to be in deep trouble at 90 for five. Harris then joined Rutherford and with bold hitting and sharp running turned the game back New Zealand's way.

In 20 overs, the pair added 122 for the sixth wicket, a record against England, beating by one run Jeremy Coney and Sir Richard Hadlee's partnership record set in Adelaide in 1982-3.

However, when the game appeared to be won, Bicknell, whose ten overs cost 55 runs, had Rutherford caught from a tired shot for 77, and Harris for a best international score of 56 in one crucial over.

The teams meet again at Wellington on Wednesday and in Auckland next Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND (Reuters) — Asanka Gurusinha continued his impressive run of form in New Zealand with an unbeaten century for the Sri Lankans against Central Districts yesterday.

In the close of the second day of the four-day match he had made 106 of the touring team's first innings score of 199 for three. Central Districts, resuming their first innings at 249 for six, were all out for 353.

Gurusinha struck ten fours and two sixes as he reached his first century of the tour off 203 balls in 239 minutes. He came to the wicket when the opener, Charith Senanayake, was helped from the pitch after a ball from the pace bowler, David Leonard, hit him in the groin.

Gurusinha and Chandika Hathurusinghe, in his first match of the tour, had made a 76-run opening partnership. Senanayake returned to put on 100 with Gurusinha, another 81 runs.

NEW ZEALAND (Reuters) — Carol Merle won the fourth supergiant slalom of the women's Alpine season on Saturday in the second round of the World Cup.

Merle, silver medal winner at the world championships, skied through the 40 gates on an unofficial time of one minute 26.14 seconds. It was the Frenchwoman's first World Cup victory of the season.

Karin Dedler, of Germany, finished second in 1min 26.07sec, with Michaela Gerg, her compatriot, third in 1min 26.80sec, giving home supporters something to cheer after Germany's disappointing single bronze medal at the world championships in Seefeld.

While the result had no serious effect on Kronberger's big lead in the overall standings, Merle's victory was a boost for the German team.

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ATHLETICS

# Baldaro says revised trials date is too close to world titles

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN A decision which has been met with disapproval from most of the main contenders for Britain's world championship trials, the United Kingdom cross country commission has voted to hold its selection trials only a fortnight before the championships.

Bud Baldaro, Britain's national cross country coach, also said yesterday that he was "a little disappointed" that the commission's 14 voting members had seen March 9 as preferable to the offer from the Women's Cross Country and Road Running Association of trials incorporated in their English women's national championships at Birkenhead next Saturday.

Baldaro is the one in touch with the athletes. "Out of 24 I

## Davies-Hale puts unconvincing case

PAUL Davies-Hale presented an unconvincing case in Tokyo yesterday for a place in Britain's marathon team to run at the world championships in the Japanese capital next summer.

In finishing twelfth in the 12km 35sec, he attained a world championship qualifying time on the championship course, but cannot be hopeful that he will be selected for the team.

He was one of the other Britons using the Boston and London marathons in April to make their claims.

The ADT London Marathon on April 21 is the official British trial and includes the likes of Allan Hutton, Geoff Wrightman and David Clark. Steve Jones and Steve Binns are among those going for the Boston Marathon on April 15. The first Briton in London will

## Bubka nears the magic mark

THE first 20m pole vault is now only half an inch away from Sergey Bubka's outdoor world record with a world indoor record of 6.08 metres (19ft 11in) at the Soviet championships in Volgograd over the weekend. It is the only standing indoor world record which is superior to the outdoor one.

Bubka, aged 27, has wasted little time in responding to questioning of the improbability of his feat. When he finished sixth in the European championship last summer - the gold going to his fellow Soviet, Rodion Gataulin - it was his first outdoor senior championship defeat since 1983. In seven years, Bubka has amassed two world championship gold medals, breaking record after record.

HOCKEY



Getting physical: Huk, left, of Australia, and Laslett, of England, tussle for possession in Glasgow yesterday

## Australia triumph over inexperience

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

England... 2  
Australia... 6

AUSTRALIA beat England emphatically in the final of the world invitation indoor classic at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, yesterday, despite being relatively new to the indoor game. Australia's experience had been restricted to two tournaments in 1987, in Dublin and Buenos Aires, in which they played ten matches in all.

When the Australians learned that Sean Kerly had not recovered from his back injury received on Saturday, they had one player fewer to fear. His work rate is so good that his absence made a difference to England. However, Australia were in charge from the start and nothing can detract from the merit of their win.

England's early strategy was to use the width of the playing area and thus to deny Australia access to the circle, at the same time seizing every chance to break through themselves. But once Australia jumped into a 2-

## Hay excels amid Scottish failings

SCOTLAND disappointed their supporters by failing to qualify for the semi-finals of the world invitation indoor classic but gave them something to shout about after defeating Spain 9-7 for fifth place. Andrew Hay scored four goals to take his total to 15 and emerge top scorer in the tournament, which was won by Australia (Sydney Friskin writes).

The surprise of the tournament was Canada, who came to Glasgow after playing only five international matches. They were eventually beaten 5-3 by Austria in the play-off for third place.

Neither Spain nor France lived up to expectations. Spain had a nasty experience travelling to Glasgow in bad weather, but France's decline was unaccountable.

The United States, who had not played an official international match before, gained valuable experience although they finished last.

England were made to fight for their 2-1 semi-final victory against Austria on Saturday. The Austrians wasted a penalty

## Waites in Rest of the World team

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

BRIAN Waites, club professional at the Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell, and one time Ryder Cup player, is back in the big time at the age of 50.

He might have failed to win his card for the US Senior tour last year but his name has not been struck from the list of potentially golden oldies. Next year, in Sarasota, Florida, he lines up alongside Gary Player, Bob Charles and Roberto de

RUGBY UNION

## Emerging players are well catered for

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE postponement until March 27 of England's B international with Italy, originally scheduled for Wednesday at Waterloo, should prove no more than a hiccup in the development of the second layer of England's players.

The Argentine tour last summer proved there was a crying need for that development. The process will reach its apogee in the summer of 1992, when a B tour to New Zealand is planned. The rebuilding process of the senior side will begin in earnest at the same time if, as is conjectured, the World Cup this autumn and the five nations' championship which follows it proves to be the conclusion of several players' England careers.

Should the visit to New Zealand come to fruition, it will surely be the second visit down under within 12 months for various players now on the fringe of national honours, because London's divisional side plays five matches in Australia in May and June. Their short-list of 35 is littered with B and Under-21 internationals, many of whom will be looking to win senior caps during the first half of the 1990s.

The next B international is now that against Ireland in Dublin on March 1, the team for which will be selected after the Calcutta Cup match on Saturday. It is unlikely, though, that there will be serious surgery to the XV chosen against Italy, because there is now the same threat of continuity in selection which distinguishes the senior squad, with Gary Pearce, the experienced Northampton prop, having apparently inherited the mantle of captaincy in succession to David Fegert.

"It's coming together very well," Graham Smith, the England B manager, said. "That weekend last November when we had to choose two B teams concentrated the mind wonderfully and I have seen some development in individual performances since then. I'm very pleased that we now have a bit of consistency in selection and people are beginning to feel part of a team."

The Spanish side we played last month wasn't necessarily the toughest opposition, but they were difficult to play against and I was very aware of an improvement in quality of some of our players. We are trying to mirror, as much as we can, the full international game and, though it's in a lower key, it seems to help the players.

"The games against Ireland away and France [on March 14] will be pretty serious stuff. The re-arranged game against Italy in March, although it comes after the five nations' championship, has as much to do with development as with selection for the last few places in the senior side to go to Australia and Fiji in the summer. We have a young B squad at the moment and the more exposure they get to coaches like Dick Best and Mike Slemmon, the better."

The divisional tour to Australia, which will be sponsored by Gallagher International, takes on greater significance because so many of the better players are concentrated in London. London, the champions, have a long-term plan in place which sees them through to the scheduled visit of New Zealand in 1993, when they are likely to provide the first opposition to the All Blacks.

## Sánchez in the money

ARANTXA Sánchez, Victoria Larrañaga, Marina Navarrete, Juanfer Navarro and Sergio Sánchez, women's tennis "shoot-out" in Dallas.

Each match comprised best-of-three sets. Sánchez, the final, Sánchez-Vicario beat Navarrete, 7-4, 7-3.

Alexander Volkov, of the Soviet Union, won his first grand prize yesterday by beating Cristian Craciun of Italy, 6-1, 7-5, in the final of the Milan-Indoor ATP tournament.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Broderick Thomas, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' linebacker, was shot twice outside a night club on Saturday, is reported to be in a serious but stable condition.

RUGBY UNION

# McLellan's Scottish League

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